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WORLD OF SPORT
Euro 96 wrap-up
It's ALL in the WORLD OF SPORT TODAY

Shas, NRP threaten to quit coalition

SARAH HONIG

SHAS last night escalated its battle with the National Religious Party by threatening to quit the coalition if it is not given the Religious Affairs portfolio by tomorrow. The NRP responded with an identical threat. This underscores the fact that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu continues to be beset by two coalition problems - the Religious Affairs portfolio and the national infrastructure ministry he wants to create for Ariel Sharon. Netanyahu would like to see both problems resolved before he leaves on July 9 for his Washington meeting with President Bill Clinton. Religious Affairs, though a minor portfolio, is of major significance as a source of clout in the religious community. Aides' willingness to offer war, the NRP and Shas finally agreed to joint custody, but now each wants to go first, fearing the other might renege on the rotation deal. Netanyahu had already decided in favor of Shas, but vehement protests from the NRP caused him to delay the final decision until his return from Washington. This reportedly elicited a furious response from Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, who had scheduled a session of the party's Council of Torah Sages for today. This is seen as an ultimatum. Shas wants the promise it had won implemented at once. As it sees it, NRP pressure is the only reason for the delay. But Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said yesterday that the NRP had consulted with the leading religious-Zionist rabbis and had decided to "take this issue to the end."

One Likud source described Netanyahu as being "trapped between the devil and the deep blue sea, and all for a portfolio which is the last one one would figure on as a source of contention." To make matters worse, the Degel Hatorah faction of United Torah Judaism is under orders from its mentor Rabbi Elyezer Schach to demand the portfolio as well. Meanwhile, Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman has made no headway in getting ministers to yield any of their departments to the new ministry to be created for Sharon. Ne'eman had been entrusted by Netanyahu with putting the new ministry together and ironing out the legal kinks. A meeting between Netanyahu and the two NRP ministers, Hammer and Transportation and Energy Minister Yitzhak Levy, failed to convince Levy to yield anything from either of his portfolios. Some reports claim that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is also refusing to make a sacrifice for Sharon. It had been assumed that he would cede control of the military industries without too great a fuss, but now, sources say, he has let Ne'eman know that this is not his intention. At this point, no one in the Likud can predict when Sharon might join the government and in what capacity. The simmering problem is a potential source of trouble for Netanyahu, as Sharon can mount a powerful internal opposition to him. In a related development, Shas leader Aryeh Deri categorically denied that he is contemplating retiring from politics or that he had asked Yosef to allow him to resign as an MK. Recent rumors claim that Deri told Yosef some 10 days ago that he wants to quit politics.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu meets Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz at the PM's office in Jerusalem yesterday. (Ariel Jerusalem)

PM, Peretz discuss privatization

MICHAL YUDELMAN

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said he will consider Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz's proposal to set up a social-economic council - to include government and Histadrut representatives and to be headed by the prime minister - to coordinate the government's economic moves. This was agreed to at a meeting held between Peretz and Netanyahu yesterday afternoon, at the prime minister's initiative, to discuss the government's economic program. Peretz said the meeting, which lasted for more than half an hour, was held in a positive atmosphere, although both sides stuck to their

positions. Netanyahu promised to hold another meeting with Peretz and Finance Minister Dan Meridor after the government completes its debate on proposed economic cuts. Peretz asked Netanyahu to make the Histadrut a partner to the government's economic plans for privatization, budgetary cuts and other moves affecting the workers' future and conditions. "I expressed my concern that economic measures might be taken in a unilateral and sweeping manner, endangering the lower-income earners and creating unemployment,"

Peretz said after the meeting. "I demanded that the government make an unequivocal announcement that it would recognize and honor signed wage-, pension and cost-of-living increment agreements." He added that the prime minister responded "in a positive manner and said he would see to it that the weaker classes are protected at every step." The two men agreed to hold regular meetings to present their demands and to maintain open channels of communications. Histadrut leaders hope the meeting will lead to cooperation between the government and the labor federation.

Netanyahu may visit Jordan before US

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is considering visiting Jordan before he goes to the US next week, but is concerned that such a visit would be seen as a snub by Egypt, senior officials in Jerusalem indicated. Netanyahu has an affinity for Jordan, and by making Amman his first visit as prime minister, he would underscore this. Netanyahu is believed to see eye to eye with King Hussein on the need to constrain Palestinian ambitions for statehood. They also share concern about terror groups harbored in Syria. During the recent Arab summit, King Hussein complained about Syria permitting

infiltrations across its border into Jordan. While in opposition, Netanyahu held at least eight meetings with either Hussein or Crown Prince Hassan. At the same time, Egypt remains the leading country in the Arab world. In 1992, prime minister Yitzhak Rabin visited Cairo before making his first trip to Washington as a symbolic gesture of cooperation. Piqued by the hard-line stance taken by Cairo at the Arab summit, Netanyahu is not thought to be keen on visiting Egypt right

now, but he does want to keep his options open in dealing with Cairo. Jordanian Ambassador Omar Rifai said that whenever Netanyahu would like to come, "we will welcome him. It is only a matter of scheduling. If he comes in the next few days, it's fine. If he does not come until after he goes to Washington, this is also fine." He sharply denied a report that Jordan is seeking to publicly distance itself from Israel in fear that it may be isolated among the Arabs. "Amman has a solid and

Mubarak warns of impending terror attacks

ELDAD BECK

PARIS EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak has warned of a new wave of terror attacks in response to the election of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. He also expressed hope that this would not lead Israel to stop the peace process. Mubarak, on a private visit to France, made the comments while meeting yesterday in Paris with Henry Hajdenberg, chairman of the French Jewish community. Hajdenberg told *The Jerusalem Post* that Mubarak insisted that Israel respect all its agreements relating to the peace process, and "keep the process alive at all costs, despite the obstacles that might appear." Mubarak added that the "three

Funding may be cut for successful road accident study project

HAIM SHAPIRO

ROAD accidents can be reduced by increasing traffic police enforcement, according to a study carried out by Hebrew University experts. However, the study project is in danger of being canceled for a budgetary reason. The project was carried out in the Netanya area and headed by Prof. Jerry Ben-David and Zvi Weinberg of the Jerusalem College of Technology, and Dr. Eliahu Richter of the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Public Health, in coordination with Metana, an organization combating road accidents. The study tested the use of cameras recording speed, in conjunction with fines and warnings to drivers, and found that this significantly reduced drivers' speed. More important, there was a 45 percent drop in the number of those injured and killed in road accidents in the

open relationship with Israel, he declared.

"We feel no reason to be embarrassed about this. There is no insecurity in the relationship." Meanwhile, while the centerpiece of Netanyahu's trip to the US will be a White House meeting with President Bill Clinton on Tuesday. The visit will also include a meeting with Republican presidential nominee Robert Dole in New York on Friday. Next Tuesday, Netanyahu is tentatively scheduled to see Clinton, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defense Secretary William Perry, and CIA chief (Continued on Page 2)

400,000 strike over economic plans

MICHAL YUDELMAN

MORE than 400,000 workers held a one-hour warning strike yesterday in response to the Histadrut's call to protest the government's anticipated economic measures and privatization plans. "I am sure the government now understands that its ability to make economic moves, and to succeed in them, depends on a fair distribution of the burden and on cooperation with the workers," Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz said after the strike. Meanwhile, a significant sign of an impending economic slowdown emerged yesterday: when the Bank of Israel said its index of integrated indicators declined in May by 0.7 percent, in comparison with the previous month, the first contraction in more than three years in this broad measurement of the economy's overall vitality. The Central Bureau of Statistics reported that the pace of growth in factory orders for equipment and machinery slowed during the April-May period to 6%-7%, after having stood at 13%-17% during the previous two months, and 17%-20% during the second half of last year. (Story, Page 8)

The main protest meeting took place at Ben-Gurion Airport, where thousands of technicians, engineers, and ground workers gathered to listen to union leaders and Peretz. "We say to the government, let's go together [on the privatization plans]. Hear our demands and the principles we insist upon. We have more experience in this than you do," Peretz said. The workers expressed fear that the moves planned by the government will lead to mass dismissals and the violation of existing wage, pension, and cost-of-living increment agreements. Airport Authority union chairman Pinhas Idan rejected criticism that the strike was political, stressing: "I'm a sworn Likud supporter, but we won't let any government, no matter who heads it, endanger our livelihood. I've been working here for 20 years, and there is a danger that people will find themselves jobless, after working for 20 or 30 years." The Haifa Port workers stated that they wouldn't let the government privatize them, and attacked Peretz for his willingness to discuss the possibility of privatization with the government. Haifa Histadrut chairman Baruch Saltz promised the workers: "We will not sit down to hear about privatization in any circumstances, and this includes Peretz. The Haifa Port will not be privatized." "They had better not mess with us. We'll show them they can't take the ports away from us," one union leader said. Another large gathering took place outside the TAAS-Israel Industries building in Ramat Hasharon, where Histadrut executive member Pinner Shomer and union leader Haim Zweig addressed thousands of workers. (Continued on Page 2)

Mandela to visit

DAVID MAKOVSKY

SOUTH African President Nelson Mandela will make a landmark visit to Israel on August 19-20. Mandela, who has been a champion of the Palestinian cause, will also visit Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, and Jordan's King Hussein. President Ezer Weizman extended the invitation while attending Mandela's inauguration in May 1994. Both Arafat and Hussein have also extended invitations to the South African leader. Mandela is likely to be the first head of state to visit the Netanyahu government. South African Ambassador Malcolm Ferguson indicated that no political meaning should be read into the timing of the visit, but rather it reflected an opening in Mandela's schedule. Ferguson said Mandela can be expected to press for Israeli-Palestinian talks. "When the president comes in August, you can expect him to voice unequivocal support for the Middle East peace process. He will certainly urge the parties to maintain a genuine dialogue," Ferguson said.

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מי עדן
השפופיה של הטבע

Ra'anana Cohen to head Labor faction

MK Ra'anana Cohen was chosen yesterday to be Labor's Knesset faction chairman. Cohen, who ran against MK Yossi Beilin, won 17-15. There were two abstentions. This will be Cohen's second consecutive term as faction head. Although all the Labor MKs are careful to say the party is united, and there are no camps operating within it, Cohen is considered to be particularly close to Ehud Barak who is considered a rival to Haim Ramon.

"The faction will operate against the coalition and against the Likud and bring about a change in government as soon as

LIAT COLLINS

possible," Cohen said. "From here, we'll stride together in one direction: a direction of hope and unity."

Beilin said the faction had proven it is possible to hold internal elections without hatred and unpleasantness. "Now we must act as the watchdog of the peace process," he said.

Former prime minister Shimon Peres also stressed the importance of preserving party unity and not interpreting the elections as a victory for this or that camp. He said

the opposition's job is to criticize the work of the government. Both Peres and Cohen support the idea of establishing a shadow government.

MK Haggai Meron, who is considered close to Beilin, did not rule out the possibility that the party is divided. "It could be that there was a matter of camps involved [in the election]," he said. "We'll have to see what happens with the rest of the allocation of positions." "I don't have a camp in Labor. It's all in the mind of the media," said Barak. "Beilin is one of Labor's most important MKs."

Ezra: Lift closure, deploy from Hebron

ISRAEL should lift the months-old closure on the territories and proceed with the redeployment in Hebron, Likud MK Gideon Ezra said yesterday. "Terrorists don't use Israeli permits, so they can still find other ways in, while the closure punishes those who seek to follow the law," he said.

Ezra, a former deputy head of the General Security Services, made the comments yesterday during a Peace Now-sponsored meeting with about 100 Israeli and Palestinian youths from Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Later, in response to a question from the audience, Ezra said the new government should abide by the Oslo accords, while moving "slowly" on issues such as Hebron.

Ezra added that he would object to the presence of Palestinian police armed with Kalashnikov rifles in Hebron, but would have no objection to them carrying

YOCHI DREAZEN

handguns.

When asked whether he was in favor of building new settlements, Ezra said that care should be taken not to provoke new quarrels with the Palestinians.

"Before building new ones, we should fill all of the empty houses," he said. "New settlements should be built in places where they are needed, like Efrat, but we must proceed carefully." While most of the event proceeded calmly, tempers flared on the subjects of Jerusalem and the IDF's behavior during the intifada. First, a Palestinian from Ramallah said he would "be the first one to fight and throw stones" if Israel refused to divide Jerusalem. Another Palestinian told Ezra that no matter how many rights they may be given in Jerusalem, they will always view Israelis as "occu-

piers. "If I see an Israeli in my city, even if he treats me well, I will still hate him and call him my enemy," he said. Ezra, visibly angry, responded that Israel was a strong country which would not negotiate with those who threatened it. "We know how to handle our enemies," he warned. Later, after a Palestinian complained that his brother's corpse had been left to rot for two weeks after being killed in a clash with the IDF, Ezra called him a "liar" and refused to answer his question about Israel's commitment to peace. "I spent 20 years in Gaza, Lebanon and the West Bank," Ezra told him. "That type of story is a product of your imagination." After the meeting, Ezra said that while he found it valuable, he was alarmed by the attitude of many of the Israelis. "These Jews need to learn who they are," he said. "They should learn our history, instead of history as taught by the Arabs."

Hebron Jews gratified by visit of Shas ministers

EVELYN GORDON

RESIDENTS of Hebron and Kiryat Arba expressed cautious optimism yesterday after a tour of the area by two Shas cabinet members.

Interior Minister Eli Shuss and Labor Minister Eli Yishai arranged the tour to study the security problems which might be caused by redeployment in Hebron.

"I think it is better to see for yourself than to hear about things," Shuss explained at a press conference after the visit. "I don't see how I could go to a cabinet meeting, express an opinion and vote without being here on the ground."

Shuss said the visit had given him a better understanding of the complexity of the situation, but declined to say whether that meant he would oppose a redeployment.

"I am convinced that the matter is even more complicated than I had previously thought," he said. "But I think our tour here in Hebron today is only one side of the problem. We also need to hear the other side, which is the diplomatic side - to see what our commitments are and what the agreements are, and then to try to tie it all together - and come up with the best solution."

Hebron spokesman David Wilder said the community was pleased that the two had taken the trouble to come and see the residents' side of the picture, even if they did not express unequivocal support afterwards.

"It's very important that these people come to visit Hebron," he said. "Of course we'd be happy if they came down and gave us the same kind of support we received from [Likud MK Ariel] Sharon ... But this is one of the first times we've seen any real desire on [Shas'] part to understand the issues from our point of view, and we view that very positively."

Kiryat Arba spokesman Tzuri Popovitch expressed similar sentiments, noting that Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef had made a "great contribution" to the residents' cause by asking then prime minister Shimon Peres to delay the redeployment earlier this spring.

"We hope this line will continue," he said. "But they didn't come to make declarations. They came to learn."

In other news, a young woman from Hebron was attacked by three Arab women yesterday morning while she was walking from Beit Hadassah to Tel Rumeida. According to residents, the women bit her, scratched her, pulled her hair and tried to drag her into a house, but she succeeded in escaping.

Boaz Goldberg, spokesman for the police's Judea and Samaria region, said the police are not investigating the incident because no complaint was filed.

"This [incident] is very serious," Wilder said. "It's also only the beginning of what would happen if the army redeployed in Hebron."

Wallerstein wins election for territories council

PINHAS Wallerstein, head of the Binyamin Regional Council, was voted the new chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea and Samaria yesterday, in a victory for the settlement movement's ideological wing.

However, the vote may also widen the rift between the ideological wing and the more pragmatic, largely secular wing.

Wallerstein was elected by a vote of 14-0, with one abstention, after six council heads left the room in protest. The six were supporters of rival candidate Shlomo Katan, mayor of Alfei Menashe, who favors shifting the council's focus to municipal rather than ideological issues.

Katan decided not to run after the council rejected his faction's motion that only local council heads be allowed to vote. Currently, eight public figures have voting rights on the council in addition to the 23 local council

EVELYN GORDON

heads. Most of the former group - which includes figures such as former Tehiya MK Elyakim Ha'etzi, Kiryat Arba Rabbi Eliezer Waldman and settlement activist Benny Katzover - are identified with the council's ideological wing.

"It is clear to me that [the public figures] vote as a bloc, and that the council will therefore continue to be a branch of Gush Emunim," Katan said, adding that his bloc will meet in the near future to consider their next steps. "This isn't democracy. The council represents a minority of the settlers today, because it doesn't represent the large urban settlements."

However, council spokesman Yehiel Leiter pointed out that since only four of the public figures actually voted, Wallerstein received the votes of a majority of the council heads as well - includ-

ing some of the heads of the large urban settlements.

"This is clearly a victory for the ideological strain within the council," he said. "Particularly now that the Likud is in power, there's a need for a strong ideological bloc on the right."

The fact that Wallerstein is "one of the most well liked" of the member council heads also made the opposition's task more difficult, he noted.

"[Wallerstein] is one of the most supportive council heads, and he's also one of the most involved [in the Council of Jewish Communities]," Leiter said.

Wallerstein is replacing Yisrael Harel, who has headed the Council of Jewish Communities since its founding. A native of Haifa, Wallerstein now resides in Psagot with his wife and seven children. He has headed the Binyamin regional council since its inception 16 years ago.



Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein poses in the Hazrot Yosef caravan site with some of the 45 new immigrants from Ethiopia who celebrated their bar mitzva yesterday. "I didn't have a bar mitzva in the Soviet Union, so I am particularly excited," Edelstein told the children, to whom he presented books.

Egypt to raise issue of US objectivity in peace talks

CAIRO (AP) - President Hosni Mubarak will raise the question of whether the United States is tilting toward Israel in the Middle East peace talks when he visits Washington in late July, Egypt's foreign minister says.

Mubarak expects to discuss the American role as a mediator in the talks when he sees President Clinton, Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said in an interview published yesterday in the opposition *Al-Arabi* newspaper.

"The American role in the peace process is important and it is based on the principle that Washington should be an objective mediator," Moussa was quoted as saying.

"There are criticisms that the United States is not objective toward the policy of Israel, and this must

discussed between the two leaders," he added.

Moussa's comments underline the sentiment in Egypt and the Arab world that the United States dropped its objectivity in supporting Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's call for resuming peace talks without "pre-conditions."

Although American officials have said the United States has not changed its position, Christopher's statements unleashed a torrent of criticism in government-run Egyptian newspapers.

Editorials decried the United States as a dishonest broker in the talks. On Sunday, the state-run daily *Al-Akhabar* ran a cartoon depicting Christopher in the guise of a well-known Egyptian actor who usually plays the role of a fool.

THE IDF has set up an inquiry into the electrocution of Second-Lt. Assaf Abani during a training exercise Sunday, when an antenna on his communications equipment hit a high-voltage power line in the Kfar Shmuel area, near Ben-Shemen.

Abani, 21, of Karmiel, was buried yesterday afternoon at the Tsur Shalom cemetery in Kiryat Bialik. More than 1,000 people attended the funeral, including Karmiel Mayor Adi Eldar, whose son grew up with Assaf. "He was the pride of the class, its first officer," he said.

According to a preliminary

IDF sets up inquiry into officer electrocuted in training accident

Jerusalem Post Staff

investigation, there were faults in the planning of the exercise and those who were in command are expected to be held responsible.

MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) submitted a parliamentary question to the defense minister asking him to explain what conclusions were reached and what measures were taken as a result of the deaths of three soldiers in similar accidents in south Lebanon two years ago.

"Why weren't the operative conclusions of those investigations implemented? Why weren't

the height of antennas decreased as a result of inquiries?" Chazan said.

She has called for the establishment of an independent body to investigate IDF accidents.

After the 1994 accidents, the chief of general staff appointed a committee of inquiry that issued a series of steps to prevent such an accident from recurring.

Abani was riding in a command car when the accident occurred.

According to a senior IDF officer, "it is not feasible that such an accident should happen to a cadet during an officer's training course. It's absurd."

After assessing the implications of the change in Israel's government, it said, "The committee believes the region is heading toward ... developments constituting great dangers for the Palestinians and Arabs."

Bir Zeit University Prof. Riyad Malki who was once local spokesman for the PFLP, but was expelled for supporting participation in Palestinian elections last January, said that Mustafa will be "sole leader in charge of the West Bank and Gaza, while Habash will be in charge abroad. This was necessary to avoid a split."

The PFLP in the West Bank and Gaza has already shrieved with defections from the party line.

Malki said he hopes it will be possible to establish a third party between Fatah and Hamas, including some of the opposition members of the Palestinian Council, which would seek to normalize relations with the PA.

"There is a big gap between the PA and Hamas; we could easily fill that gap."

Hizbullah gunmen attack in zone

HIZBULLAH gunmen attacked with mortars and machine-gun fire at a main crossing point on the northern perimeter of the security zone early yesterday, as the organization maintained its pressure on the South Lebanese Army.

There were no casualties in the attack on the checkpoint, near Huleh village. IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Meanwhile, Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah has reportedly given an assurance that the organization will not launch any attacks on Israel if the IDF withdraws from the zone.

The guarantee was apparently

given in an interview with a US-based magazine, *Middle East Insight*, and was quoted in yesterday's edition of *Ha'aretz*.

The report said Nasrallah was doubtful that Israel would be willing to withdraw, despite his assurances and those of the Lebanese government.

He also reportedly cast doubts over Israel's intention to uphold the Grapes of Wrath understandings, which ban attacks on civilians on both sides of the border.

Hizbullah leaders have in the past indicated that the organiza-

tion would cease its so-called resistance activities if the IDF were to withdraw from south Lebanon, but it has not stated so categorically.

The fate of the SLA and especially its leaders, however, is more clear. Hizbullah has threatened to take revenge on those who have aided the "Zionist enemy," while the Beirut government has already begun steps to try them for treason.

Lebanese observers in Israel said that even if Nasrallah was quoted correctly, his comments were probably designed for international consumption.

IAI to maintain and upgrade Airbus passenger jet

ISRAELI Aircraft Industries has become the representative for the maintenance and upgrading of the Airbus passenger jet, the company said yesterday.

IAI's Bedek division will service the Airbus jets, including the A-300 and A-310 models. Starting in 1997, Airbus plans on manufacturing 14 jets monthly.

Airbus deputy director-general Gerard Mirai said the decision to authorize IAI as his company's representative came after a long

examination of the company and its performance.

David Arzi, Bedek director, said the decision is significant for IAI. "For Bedek, it has been a dream come true," he said. "We have always respected Airbus. We are aware of the tremendous competition, but we had ambitions to achieve a permanent relation with Airbus. This is a connection that is very important to us, and we

will treat it with the utmost seriousness."

Arzi said he hopes that Israeli airlines, such as Arkia, will buy jets from Airbus and benefit from Bedek services.

Airbus has been operating for 26 years. It is a product of a consortium that includes British Aerospace, Deutsch Aerospace, and Aerospatiale.

Last month, the company had 2,000 orders and had already supplied 661 jets.

PFLP freezes membership in PLO

JON IMMANUEL

THE Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the second largest faction in the PLO, has frozen its membership in the organization until Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat cancels his agreements with Israel.

The decision was announced in Damascus yesterday at the urging of George Habash, after a three-day meeting of the PFLP politburo. At the same time, the politburo is sending Abu Ali Mustafa, Habash's deputy, to Gaza to oversee the decision, according to more moderate PFLP members here who have sought compromise with Arafat.

Habash has always opposed the Oslo agreements, and the decision will further sideline the PLO while the PA, Palestinian Council, and revamped Palestinian National Council take charge.

At its peak, the PFLP enjoyed support of about 10 percent of Palestinians, but it has dropped since Oslo. Its decision follows a trend among all Palestinian groups to be more radical abroad

than inside the territories under PA authority. It means that Hamas and the PFLP, the two largest Palestinian opposition groups, are both outside the PLO.

PFLP members who came to Gaza to monitor, but boycott, the April PNC meeting that was to amend the Palestinian Covenant reported back to Habash on their impressions and apparently sought some kind of accommodation with Arafat. But the PFLP central committee gave the cancellation of the charter and the change of Israeli government as reasons for its decision to freeze membership of the PLO.

"The PFLP announces that it is suspending its membership in the PLO because of the PLO leadership's destructive policy, which led to its recognition of the enemy's entity and denying the national charter through adopting the Oslo deals," spokesman Maher Taber said in a statement quoted by Reuters.

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Machpela Cave to close on July 7

THE Machpela Cave will be closed to both Jews and Arabs for a few days starting on July 7, the army announced yesterday. The IDF Spokesman said the temporary closure is a routine measure, which takes place every four months, to enable the force guarding the cave to conduct training exercises and to permit repairs. The army did not say how long the closure would last.

Evelyn Gordon

JORDAN

(Continued from Page 1)

John Deutch. He will be feted at a reception hosted by Vice President Al Gore. On Wednesday, he will address a joint session of Congress, and speak to the National Press Club.

On Thursday, Netanyahu will make a key address to top American industrialists in New York, along with Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, in a bid to woo more investment to Israel. This is one of the reasons that Netanyahu is seeking to push through a budget agreement now.

On the same day, Netanyahu will address thousands of Jewish activists under the sponsorship of the Jewish Community Relations Council and will also address the

Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Netanyahu, whose wife Sara and sons Yair and Avner will accompany him, will spend Shabbat in New York before returning home.

MUBARAK

(Continued from Page 1)

ness" of Netanyahu - no to the division of Jerusalem, to a withdrawal from the Golan, and to the establishment of a Palestinian state - put all Arab leaders in a very difficult position regarding public opinion in their countries.

Mubarak met last night with French President Jacques Chirac and discussed the future of the peace process.

STRIKE

(Continued from Page 1)

Shomer said the workers are alarmed by reports of plans to unilaterally privatize, without coordinating with the workers.

Doron Tamir, chairman of Manufacturers Association's labor committee estimated the strike's damage at NIS 20 million, noting that hardly any disruptions were caused in the business sector.

Tamir blasted the strike as "unnecessary and premature. The Histadrut is shooting from the hip for no reason. There isn't any economic program yet. I have no doubt that when the time comes for practical moves, nobody will forget the Histadrut, and every move will be discussed with the Histadrut and the employers."

Itim

12 injured in accident

Twelve people were injured, three of them seriously, in an accident on the Coastal Road near the Wingate Institute at 5:15 yesterday morning.

A car, driven by a 19-year-old from Petah Tikva and illegally carrying six passengers - one in the trunk - was returning from a party, when it swerved and hit the van on its right.

The two vehicles then ran off the road into a ditch. There were five people in the van. Police attributed the accident to the lack of sleep and inexperience of the car's driver, who obtained his driver's license three weeks ago.

Itim

Bicycle trekkers leave Kiryat Shmona for Eilat

In what is billed as the longest bicycle trek in Israel's history, cyclists took off from Kiryat Shmona on a trip that will take them 800 kilometers down to Eilat, via dozens of cities, villages and nature sites around the country.

The bicycle trip, which was organized by the association of community centers, will be covered daily on Educational TV. Its theme is "The challenge - good manners on the roads," and its purpose is to promote road safety and discovering the country. The cyclists are scheduled to arrive in Eilat in August.

Itim

Curfew on Bidiya lifted

THE IDF lifted the curfew yesterday on the village of Bidiya, near Ariel, that was imposed after police First-Sgt. Meir Alush was killed and his wife, Nitza, wounded in a terror attack there on June 16.

Itim

DEPARTURES

Mrs. Raya Jugons, President Israel Friends of the Tel Aviv University in Geneva and Cannes to attend the functions of the Tel Aviv University.

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Kahalani visits Ayalon Prison

RAINE MARCUS

INTERNAL Security Minister Avidor Kahalani visited Ramle's Ayalon Prison yesterday and was briefed on the problems that the Prisons Service faces.

He chatted with prisoners in their cells and was given first-hand accounts on life in prison. After his visit, Kahalani said that the wardens' job was not an easy one and is in most cases thankless, adding that the ministry and Prisons Service must realize that they are dealing with human beings and should do everything to ensure that prisoners' self-respect and dignity are maintained.

In the past few years, Prisons Service Commissioner Arye Bibi has launched a major drive to rehabilitate prisoners who are addicted to drugs. Kahalani stressed that rehabilitation is of the utmost importance, but he expressed concern that drugs are so available in prisons.

Kahalani's predecessor Moshe Shahal started a project whereby police lock-ups would come under the jurisdiction of the Prisons Service, to solve the problems of overcrowding and escapes. Kahalani said he would continue the project.



A group of children with cancer are given a tour of Tel Aviv police headquarters yesterday by Tel Aviv police chief Gabi Lask. The 40 children, accompanied by actress Gila Almagor (upper right), were given a demonstration of trained police dogs sniffing out drugs and explosives.

(Text: Raine Marcus; Photo: Dana Steinhilber/Israel Sun)

1,200 illegal Arab workers found in center of country last month

RAINE MARCUS

MORE than 1,200 Arabs from the territories illegally in Israel were rounded up last month in the central district, according to Cmdr. Shlomo Aharonishky, chief of the Central District, responsible for patrolling the Green Line.

Aharonishky was speaking yesterday following a dawn raid in the Green Line area, the sixth in a series of crackdowns on Arabs illegally working here.

Some 90 illegal Arab workers were rounded up yesterday in a raid conducted by large forces of police, border police, and civil guard volunteers. The workers were found in the areas of Shoham, Macabbin, Reut and Lapid,

and criminal files were opened against seven employers.

In June, 76 files were opened against employers who hired Arab workers illegally and against 35 people who assisted them.

Aharonishky, who participated in the operation, said yesterday's raid gives notice to potential offenders that the Central District will not allow the employment of Arabs without permits.

A new law empowers the courts to imprison for up to two years employers hiring Arabs

illegally, but the courts usually hand out hefty fines. Aharonishky said he holds employers and those allowing Arabs to sleep over in Israeli towns fully responsible.

"Continuing operations of this kind will make employers think twice before hiring Arabs illegally," said Aharonishky. "Cooperation among different authorities, including regional councils and the courts, will help us stamp out this phenomenon."

However, he added, the problem, which constitutes a danger to security, cannot be wiped out completely, and police need additional resources, including personnel, to deal with it.

Meretz petitions against Pinhasi appointment

EVELYN GORDON

MERETZ yesterday asked the High Court of Justice to prevent the appointment of MK Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) as chairman of the Knesset House Committee.

The petition is based on the indictment which is pending against him for tax fraud and violations of the party funding laws.

According to the draft indictment, Pinhasi illegally hired yeshiva students, who are forbidden by law to work while they are deferring their army service, to work for Shas in the 1988 election campaign. He failed to pay taxes for these workers, and he also allegedly submitted a false set of books to the state comptroller.

The Knesset originally decided in March 1993 to lift Pinhasi's immunity so that he could stand trial. Pinhasi then petitioned the High Court against this decision, and the court ordered a revote.

During the revote, which took place in July 1993, the Knesset decided not to lift his immunity. Therefore, Pinhasi has never

stood trial.

However, the petition noted, in response to a petition asking that Pinhasi not be allowed to serve as a deputy minister, the High Court ruled that the crimes with which he was charged "appear to indicate a 'moral defect' in his behavior, and can be classified as crimes which, under the circumstances, involve moral turpitude."

The petition argued that it is improper for someone suspected of such crimes to head the House Committee, which is responsible for upholding House rules, because this would damage public faith in the committee's decisions and in the rule of law in general.

In particular, the petition said, it is wrong for the House Committee, which has the job of deciding whether to lift MKs' immunity, to be headed by someone who did everything possible to avoid having his own immu-

ty lifted.

The problem is heightened by the fact that Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair is considering asking the new Knesset to revoke on lifting Pinhasi's immunity, the petition added. It is therefore possible that Pinhasi would be heading the committee which decides his own fate.

Liat Collins adds: Pinhasi said if he is elected to chair the House Committee he would not run the meetings on Ben-Yair's request that his immunity be lifted. "Even though a legal opinion I received indicated there is no reason I should not chair the committee, even during debates on lifting political immunity, I decided to announce my intention at this stage not to do so in order to prevent slanderous talk," Pinhasi said in a letter he sent Speaker Dan Tichon.

Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar is expected to state his opinion on the subject within a couple of days.

Man sentenced for murder of underworld figure

RAINE MARCUS

REUVEN Graziani, 37, was sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment by Tel Aviv District Court for the murder of underworld figure Amnon Bahashian.

Bahashian was gunned down two years ago as he sat outside his Tel Aviv restaurant. Graziani's sunglasses and items of clothing bearing his fingerprints were found nearby. He had been expelled from the US, where he had served a prison sentence, only a few weeks prior to the murder.

Judges Devora Bertiner, Ze'ev Hammer, and Sara Sirota said that Graziani's refusal to participate in a line-up only strengthened their decision to convict him. He also refused to allow police to fingerprint him, but admitted that the sunglasses found near the scene belonged to him. Police believed he murdered Bahashian to avenge the attempted murder of his brother, who was supposed to testify against Bahashian, who then fled here from the US. Bahashian's nephew is currently serving a prison sentence there for the offense.

Graziani said he intends to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Magen is deputy finance minister

MK David Magen (Gesher) was yesterday appointed deputy finance minister. Finance Minister Dan Meridor announced the appointment in the Knesset plenum noting it has been approved by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. A discussion on the appointment will be held next week at the request of 36 MKs, but under the Basic Law: The Government, the appointment does not need the approval of the Knesset.

Liat Collins

Petition against Leah Rabin benefits thrown out

THE High Court of Justice yesterday threw out a petition against the office, car and secretary given Leah Rabin after her husband was assassinated. The petitioner, Ya'acov Elias, had charged that Rabin was using her government funding to incite against the right wing, and that her benefits should therefore be canceled.

Evelyn Gordon

NII expects to collect NIS 13b. this year

JUDY SIEGEL

THE National Insurance Institute expects to collect NIS 13 billion in health taxes this year, based on the amount already taken in during the first five months of this year.

NII Director-General Yossi Tamir said this week that in 1995, the NII took in NIS 700 million more in health taxes than was collected as membership fees by the various health funds before the National Health Insurance Law passed 18 months ago.

Tamir was reacting to comments made last week by the Maccabi

health fund director-general Shabtai Shavit that using the NII as a conduit for health taxes works to the health funds' detriment. Tamir did not mention an expected shortfall of NIS 1.5 billion between health costs and income in 1996.

Direct collection as health taxes, based on income, saved NIS 100 million in administrative costs; the health funds previously had many hundreds of clerks to do this work, while the need for increased NII staff to do this job has been much smaller, Tamir said.

Immigrant couple wins NIS 12 million in Lotto

A NEW immigrant couple from the CIS were the winners of last Tuesday's NIS 12 million Lotto prize, it was revealed yesterday, after a week of speculation.

The couple, in their 40s and from the North, came here four years ago. The husband is a factory worker and his wife is an unemployed engineer. They have one daughter, who is a high school student.

"We are a new immigrant success story," the wife said. "We worked hard and saved every penny for an apartment, and then took a huge mortgage. Now we can pay off the mortgage."

She said she had no idea what to do with the rest of the money, since "it still seems like a big dream." A large portion of the money, she said, will certainly go into savings.

Her husband, who was earning NIS 4,000 a month, said he would like to open his own business and employ other new immigrants. (Tim)

Jewish Agency and Keren Hayesod donate ambulance to Metulla

DAVID RUDGE

A FULLY equipped ambulance costing over NIS 200,000 was donated to residents of the Galilee panhandle yesterday by the Jewish Agency and Keren Hayesod, as a result of the Katyusha attacks on the region.

The ambulance, which will serve all residents of the region, was presented by Jewish Agency chairman Avraham

Burg and Keren Hayesod world chairman Shlomo Hillel to Metulla Local Council head Yossi Goldberg in a ceremony at the agency's headquarters in Jerusalem.

It is part of the aid package promised by Burg to residents

of the North when a high-ranking delegation of Jewish Agency representatives visited the region during Operation Grapes of Wrath.

The money for the ambulance, which meets Magen David Adom standards, was raised from donations from the Jewish community in Denmark through the auspices of Keren Hayesod.

The strange tale of Netanyahu's au pair

ESTHER HECHT

AU pairs and their employers often part with bitterness. But when it's the au pair of the prime minister's children, she also comes away with a very salable story.

So it was hardly surprising that after Tanya Shaw, 21, found herself summarily dismissed on Sunday afternoon, she turned to Ma'ariv for "help." That newspaper said it found her sitting on the sidewalk outside the Netanyahu home in Jerusalem, surrounded by her belongings and crying, and eager to tell her story.

The next morning her father, Philip Shaw, of Efrat, phoned The Jerusalem Post offering more details than had appeared on Ma'ariv's front page. He was with his daughter at a Jerusalem hotel, where her new benefactors were putting her up.

The family moved from Johannesburg to Tel Aviv last August, then moved to Efrat. About six months ago, while Tanya was still attending an ulpan, she applied for an au pair job through a Tel Aviv-based firm that matched her up with the Netanyahus.

After a thorough security check, "they called Tanya and said: 'Come immediately.' Then they said she should come three days later; then they told her to sign a contract and start working immediately," she said. "She didn't have a chance to have the contract perused."

Her duties included not only looking after the two Netanyahus children, Yair and Avner, but also cooking for the family and cleaning, her father said. Her day started when the children woke up, about 6:30. "We



Tanya Shaw: Summarily dismissed by the Netanyahu family on Sunday. (Leah Ramet)

would call [on her private line] at 11:30 p.m. or midnight. Often, she was still working after midnight."

According to the contract, she was to have been paid on the ninth of each month, but "she was always paid later - and in part, not in full," he said.

According to Shaw, relations between his daughter and Sara Netanyahu were never good. "There were screaming matches," he said.

Four months ago, the au pair agency called the parents in for a meeting, saying relations between Netanyahu and his daughter were very bad, he said.

A woman at the agency, who would identify herself only as

Hilma, described Tanya as having "a high temper and a big mouth, and her parents acknowledge it," but added that she is a "good girl" and "knows how to apologize."

What happened on Tanya's last day of work with the Netanyahus is unclear. Ma'ariv quotes her as saying she was out with Avner, when a guard told her Netanyahu wanted to see her immediately. According to her, Netanyahu said, "You forgot the soup on the stove and it's burned."

After a heated exchange, in which Shaw said she was giving two weeks' notice, and then five days' notice, Netanyahu ordered a guard to throw her out of the house, Ma'ariv reported. Three hours later, she was allowed back in to gather her belongings.

The Prime Minister's Office refused to say anything beyond the statement it made to Ma'ariv: "The au pair's recent behavior in the Netanyahu home showed indications of acute instability. In light of this, security recommended she be removed from the prime minister's home."

"The Netanyahu family intended to continue employing her till the end of the [one-year] contract, but an outburst bordering on violence led to a fire in the family kitchen yesterday, and led to her dismissal. The Netanyahu family regrets the au pair's severe condition and her imagined and false claims, and will do everything possible to help in her rehabilitation."

Meanwhile, the au pair agency said it is interviewing a replacement.

Man held on suspicion of killing baby daughter

KIRYAT Shmona police are investigating suspicions that a local man killed his two-month-old daughter. The man arrived in the emergency room yesterday morning with his daughter's body, claiming that she slipped out of his hands in the bathroom and died.

The examining doctor saw suspicious signs on the baby's body and called the police, who decided to send the body for an autopsy.

The man was held for questioning. The mother, who was summoned to the hospital, said she had been out on errands when the incident occurred. The couple, who are not married, have a two-year-old daughter and the woman has another child from a previous marriage. Social workers are considering taking the children from the home pending the results of the investigation. (Tim)

Court rejects petition against UTJ coalition deal

THE High Court of Justice has rejected a petition against the coalition agreement with United Torah Judaism. The petition, by Ha'aretz reporter Ben-Zion Sitrin, argued Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's promise to UTJ to hold the Housing Ministry for his entire term of office was illegal, because he relinquished the right granted him by law to move ministers and ministries around. However, the court said the issue was irrelevant unless and until Netanyahu was actually being constrained by the pact to do or not do something specific. Evelyn Gordon

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With his latest initiative to support the development of an institute for leadership education, along with a Center for Strategic Policy Research, at the College of Judea and Samaria, Dr. Bloch has again demonstrated a visionary role in building for the future of Israel.

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Stunning win for Mongolian democracy

ULAN BATOR (AP) — Stunned by its own success in landmark parliamentary elections that toppled former communists, Mongolia's democratic opposition immediately set its sights yesterday on speeding up political and economic reforms.

"We have a very, very big task," said Gonchigdorj, leader of the democratic coalition, who like many Mongolians uses only one name. The victorious opposition, which has never held power, now must not only form a government but figure out how to run one.

In Sunday's polling, the two-party democratic alliance took at least 48 of the 76 parliamentary seats, trouncing the formerly communist People's Revolutionary Party, which had ruled for nearly 75 years.

The ex-communists dropped from their current 70 seats to 23, according to preliminary official returns. Five seats were still undecided.

The government said the pre-

liminary tally would not be made official until after it investigates any allegations of unfairness and formally presents the results to the president, which must be done within 15 days.

In a weedy square outside the coalition headquarters, a festive atmosphere prevailed as word of the results spread. Crowds of supporters cheered when a candidate left or arrived. An enterprising vendor moved in and sold bottles of cherry soda.

Formation of the new government might not happen for another month. During the next week, activity will grind to a halt for the national "naadam" festival, which features traditional tests of skill like horse-racing, archery and Mongolian wrestling.

At the headquarters of the ex-communists, officials sequestered themselves in closed-door meetings and rebuffed requests for comment. At one point, reporters standing outside the door of a room where a meeting was under-

way could hear voices raised in apparent agitation.

State radio reported the election results tersely, reading off the list of winning candidates without commentary.

Various government and non-government observers, speaking on condition of anonymity, discounted the possibility that the former communists would refuse to hand over power.

Mongolia's transition away from communism has been remarkable for its peacefulness, and few thought the People's Revolutionary Party would jeopardize foreign aid and investment by any repressive actions.

Galthuu, an official with the Mongolian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said opposition pledges to accelerate the privatization of state-run enterprises and reform the banking system could help attract badly needed outside investment.

"I think these (election) results will be very, very positive."



Over 1,000 youths take the Chinese Communist Party oath during an induction ceremony at Tiananmen Square yesterday. The mass induction coincides with the 75th anniversary of the party, which is trying to recapture the vigor of its youth by recruiting members.

Young lawyer is new Dominican president

SANTO DOMINGO (Reuters) — Centrist Leonel Fernandez, a 42-year-old lawyer, won the presidency of the Dominican Republic by a 2.5 percent margin yesterday, succeeding Joaquin Balaguer who is more than twice his age.

The Central Election Board said with more than 99 percent of the votes counted from Sunday's runoff vote, Fernandez of the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD), had defeated Jose

Francisco Pena Gomez of the centre-left Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), by 51.25 percent to 48.75 percent.

Before issuing the results bulletin, the election board said on television a small number of ballots had not been included in the total because they had not been counted or were declared null, but they would not affect the outcome.

Fernandez will be inaugurated

as president on Aug. 16, taking over from Balaguer who has served, seven non-consecutive terms as president.

The 42-year-old lawyer's appointment will end six decades of strongman rule. Before Balaguer, dictator Rafael Trujillo ruled the Caribbean nation from 1930 until his 1961 assassination.

Thousands celebrated outside PLD headquarters, wearing hats, shirts and badges of purple, the colour of the PLD. Music blasted as they danced, waved banners and sang to celebrate the party's victory. One man shouted: "Trujillo is dead!"

"I believe the triumph of the PLD with the National Patriotic Front is a triumph of the Dominican people and of democracy in general," said Juan Ramon Ortiz, 43, who embraced passers-by as he swayed at the edge of the crowd.

The National Patriotic Front is an alliance of the PLD and Balaguer's Social Christian Reform Party (PRSC), the conservative nationalist party that was the PLD's biggest enemy.

Observers said Fernandez's link with the ruling party helped push him to the presidency.

Familiar faces head Vietnamese Politburo

HANOI (AP) — The ruling Communist Party named a new Politburo yesterday with the same top leaders but more members from the security forces.

General Secretary Do Muoi, President Le Duc Anh and Premier Vo Van Kiet were all reappointed, although the new Politburo is slightly younger than the last one.

But the presence of six members from the military and police, up from the previous four, gave it a conservative cast. Moreover, three out of five members of the Politburo Standing Committee, a newly created sub-group, are from the security contingent.

"We can only have economic development with social and political stability," said Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, a Politburo member, when asked about military and police members.

"If we want to have stability, we need to ensure our security," he said at a news conference.

The 19-member Politburo and 170-member Central Committee were announced at the end of a four-day national party congress. The gathering, the first in five years, set ambitious goals including annual economic growth of 9-

10 percent and eradicating hunger by the year 2000.

But it also stressed the need to maintain strong party and state control over the economy and society, and to guard against foreign ideas that might undermine the party's power.

The continued presence of the party's top three leaders — Muoi, Anh and Kiet, all in their 70s — indicates a continuation of the current policy of widening foreign relations, welcoming but attempting to control foreign investors, and moving slowly and tentatively toward a liberal economy.

Asked about the prospect for political liberalization, Muoi said Vietnam already has a kind of democracy that suits it.

"If anybody wants to attack this (Communist) party, they will be in big trouble," he said. Asked how long the party would remain in power, he said, "Forever."

Party officials, including an outgoing Central Committee member, have said the top three may retire in the second half of next year, but no formal announcement was made. Muoi, who is 79 and walks a bit shakily, told reporters he will leave when the party asks him

to.

The presence of the three septuagenarians was balanced by the addition of two officials in their late 40s. The Politburo also includes a woman for the first time.

"We think of it as a family, where we include both the old and the young," said Nong Duc Manh, 55, a Politburo member and chairman of the National Assembly.

"To play its role well, the party has to reform and adjust itself," Muoi said in a closing speech to the gathering, standing in front of huge portraits of Marx and Lenin. He urged all party members to be honest and thrifty.

Widespread corruption emerged as a secondary theme during the congress, with many delegates identifying it as a serious problem for the party's image. However, no plan of action was suggested.

Muoi's predecessor as party chief, Nguyen Van Linh, shook up many delegates when he gave a speech suggesting the party is corrupted at the very top.

"If your house has problems with the roof and you only mend the wall, the problems will never be solved," Linh said.

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New leak at Chernobyl

KIEV (Reuters) — A small amount of radiation was released in one of two working reactors at the Chernobyl power station, site of the world's worst nuclear disaster, plant staff and Ukraine's nuclear authority said yesterday.

Galina Nossach, an engineer at the station 140 km north of Kiev, said the leak occurred in a corridor in the main room of Chernobyl's reactor no. 1.

She said the incident rated zero on the 0-7 international scale of "nuclear events" and posed no threat to staff or the environment. It was the latest in a long series of incidents at the plant, due to close by the end of the century.

"It's still not clear why this happened," Nossach said by telephone. "Why does there have to be such a fuss about every little trivial occurrence? This can happen at any station. But we do understand that our station is viewed as a special one."

Tetyana Yagish, a spokeswoman for Ukraine's nuclear authority, said the leak was at levels five times higher than normal in a corridor used by staff.

"They discovered it on Friday and completed the clean-up Saturday," she said.

Yagish said the leak occurred as staff were checking inside the reactor with television cameras.

Ireland takes over EU presidency

DUBLIN (Reuters) — EU Commission President Jacques Santer arrived in Dublin yesterday for the handover of the European Union presidency and some of the bloc's biggest headaches to one its smallest states.

An EU war on drugs, crime and unemployment is expected to be the main focus of Ireland's stewardship of the EU over the next six months, Irish officials said.

Santer and the entire 20-person EU Commission came to Dublin for a state dinner hosted by Prime Minister John Bruton and talks with officials.

They arrived amid public outrage over the killing last week of crime journalist Veronica Guerin whose reporting uncovered drug barons and gangland godfathers operating in Ireland.

The Irish government wants member states to impose mandatory maximum sentences on convicted drug traffickers to show the crime overlords that they are united in the fight against a sub-culture which poisons youth and perverts social values.

Santer, in an interview taped

Australia's Northern Territory becomes first to okay euthanasia

DARWIN, Australia (Reuters) — The world's first law allowing voluntary euthanasia came into force in Australia yesterday but dying patients may be forced to wait months before they can end their lives using lethal injections or pills.

Australian authorities have warned doctors they could face murder charges for helping patients die if legal and political challenges to the new law, which are unlikely to be resolved before the end of the year, are successful.

A coalition against euthanasia consisting of doctors, church and aboriginal leaders yesterday began a Supreme Court challenge in Darwin to the new law, arguing it exceeded the territory's powers and breached the constitution.

The coalition's lawyer David Jackson told the court the territory law contravened Australians' right to life.

"Underlying the law lies a fundamental right, principle, value or doctrine that there is sanctity of life or that there is an inalienable right to life," Jackson said.

Euthanasia opponents have warned they will appeal to Australia's highest court if necessary, in which case a final legal

Australia's Northern Territory becomes first to okay euthanasia

decision was not expected until the end of the year.

The voluntary euthanasia law, condemned by Australia's political leaders, is also under threat from legislation due to be debated in the national parliament later this year.

Kevin Andrews, a federal parliamentarian with the ruling Liberal-National coalition, plans to introduce a bill in August to overturn retrospectively the voluntary euthanasia law.

He said doctors who helped patients die could be charged with murder if his bill was passed.

"In that case they ought to take careful consideration of their position," Andrews said. The national government has constitutional power over Australian territories.

The architect of the voluntary euthanasia law, former territory government leader Marshall Perron, said confusion over the legal position of doctors could see supportive doctors reluctant to assist terminal patients end their lives.

Australian taxi driver Max Bell, 65, one of the first to try to use the law after moving to the territory, yesterday had his doctor sign a voluntary euthanasia declaration.

And I Shall Dwell Among Them

Historic Synagogues of the World

Photographs and commentary by Neil Folberg

For the last three years Neil Folberg, a former student of Ansel Adams, has travelled the world, visiting Jewish communities past and present and photographing both grand-scale and modest synagogues, in places ranging from India to the Czech Republic, to Israel, the American South and the Caribbean. An essay by Yon Tov Assis focuses on the social and cultural history of the Jews, and Neil Folberg's first-person account of his photographs accompanies each of the chapters, which are divided into geographic regions. A superb full color album, it provides a vibrant window onto the Jewish cultural past.

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'Plain English' applaud Clinton

LONDON (AP) — Step forward President Clinton: exponent of the art of plain speaking.

Britain's Plain English Campaign said yesterday it has awarded the US president a special prize for his "plain and effective" use of the language, particularly in speeches in Britain.

"We were inundated with calls from supporters all over Britain after President Clinton's visit to Northern Ireland" late last year, campaign director Chrissie Maher said yesterday.

"His plain and effective style of speaking moved people."

Maher said after monitoring the president's speeches this year, the campaign concluded that "he speaks very well, very plainly and in the best tradition of American presidents."

"He received so many nominations that we created a new (award) category: Exceptional Plain English Communicator. We hope that he will accept this

award with our respect and regard from the land of William Shakespeare and Winston Churchill."

The campaign cited in particular a rousing address Clinton gave outside Belfast's town hall on November 30. Hopes for peace were high in Northern Ireland then as IRA and Protestant "loyalist" gunmen maintained a truce.

Speaking beneath a giant Christmas tree, Clinton told an enthusiastic audience of both Catholics and Protestants, "You must say to those who still would use violence for political objectives: 'You are the past, your day is over.'"

"Violence has no place at the table of democracy and no role in the future of this land," he said.

The campaign will hand the award, a diamond shaped glass trophy inscribed with the president's name, to a representative of the American Embassy in London on July 4, Maher said.



Actor Alexei Soskov operates puppets of Alexander Lebed (center) and Russian President Boris Yeltsin (right). Both puppets are dressed as railway workers. Security Chief Lebed's new star status in Russian politics has been confirmed by the popular satirical 'Kukly' (puppets) television program which has promoted him from a supporting role into a leading actor.

Officials dismiss Yeltsin health concerns

News agencies MOSCOW

SPEAKING to voters for the first time in a week, Boris Yeltsin urged his nation yesterday to choose freedom in a crucial presidential runoff two days away — as officials sought to dispel concerns about the president's health.

"We have one Russia, one future, one path to normal life," a tired but firm-speaking Yeltsin said in a televised appeal. "Vote for the new Russia! Only together we shall win!"

The speech came on the last day campaigning is allowed before tomorrow's vote pitting Yeltsin against Communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov.

"You will vote not only for Yeltsin or Zyuganov," the president said. "You will vote for yourself, your family, the future of your children."

Yeltsin's campaign has been somewhat marred by a revival of old worries about his health and fitness for a second term.

The 65-year-old Yeltsin, who has a history of heart trouble, canceled a string of recent appearances and trips, including a Kremlin meeting yesterday with the presidents of Ukraine and Moldova.

In Washington the White House said yesterday it had no indications from Russian officials that Russian President Boris Yeltsin was suffering from anything more serious than a sore throat.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said the US government had contacts with Russian officials through the US embassy in Moscow, and "privately they're telling us the same thing they're saying publicly... (that Yeltsin has) laryngitis, is resting, looking forward to getting back to work soon."

McCurry noted this was the same thing that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had told President Bill Clinton on Saturday in Lyon, France, where they were attending an economic summit.

McCurry said he was not aware of any "direct communication" between US officials and Yeltsin in recent days.

A Ukrainian Embassy spokesman said the Russian side canceled the meeting Sunday. A Yeltsin spokesman, Pyotr Tarasov, said it was delayed "by mutual agreement."

Yeltsin kept up a busy campaign schedule before the first election round June 16. He jetted around the country, waded into crowds, visited mines and factories, danced at rock concerts.

But a week ago, Yeltsin abruptly canceled a short campaign journey, then a planned trip to the G-7 summit in France, where he sent Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The president did not attend a meeting with farmers last Friday and missed a festival in Moscow on Sunday.

He did tape his appeal yesterday, according to officials, and held meetings at his country residence with Chernomyrdin and the national security adviser, Alexander Lebed. Russian TV reports showed a slightly pale Yeltsin discussing elections with the premier.

"Elections are the main thing now," Yeltsin said. "The decisive moment is coming for all of us."

Chernomyrdin, who would take over should the president be incapacitated, said Yeltsin was recovering from a cold. Aides have insisted the president merely lost his voice giving too many interviews.

Asked at a news conference if Yeltsin suffered another bout of the heart ailment that landed him in hospital twice last year, Chernomyrdin laughed: "When we met he shook my hand so strongly all doubts disappeared."

Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, a powerful Yeltsin ally, said the president was "in working condition and holding meetings of his election staff."

Yeltsin's lack of visible activity following a whirlwind campaign has sent tremors through Russia's fragile stock market, but its concrete impact on his re-election chances remained unclear.

Russia's major networks and newspapers, solidly pro-Yeltsin, have largely ignored or dismissed speculation about his health, and many voters across the country are likely unaware of it altogether.

Still, campaign manager Sergei Filatov said advisers "must have made a mistake by not telling the president to appear in public and at least wave his hand to the people to exclude rumors about his illness."

Did Karadzic really turn over powers to his deputy?

SARAJEVO (AP) — The Bosnian Serb's Radovan Karadzic, indicted for war crimes, has bowed to international pressure to step aside.

Or has he?

Karadzic sent a letter to international mediators on Sunday declaring that was quitting his office as Bosnian Serb president and handing his powers to a deputy.

Though international officials insisted Karadzic was out Sunday, the hard-line deputy who assumed his post, Biljana Plavsic, said Karadzic remained president — just without his powers.

Hasan Muratovic, prime minister of Bosnia's Muslim-led government, Karadzic's enemy in the 3 1/2-year war, called the move a ruse. "He has not been replaced," Muratovic said.

A new statement from the Bosnian Serbs yesterday reiterated that Karadzic had "handed over his powers" to Plavsic, but stopped short of saying unequivocally that Karadzic was no longer the Bosnian Serb president.

In his statement, Karadzic said he had "handed over his powers" to Plavsic, but stopped short of saying unequivocally that Karadzic was no longer the Bosnian Serb president.

Officials did not immediately offer reaction to the new statement, but anger had erupted in the office of Carl Bildt, the top international official for Bosnia's peace accord, in response to Plavsic's comments that Karadzic was still president.

"What we have is not what we want; there must be action," said Bildt's deputy Michael Steiner.

A senior official in Bildt's office, insisting on anonymity, said the Bosnian Serb leadership must now immediately complete Karadzic's removal from power or Bildt would call for either sanctions against all Serbs or military action to remove Karadzic.

The NATO peace force commander, US Adm. Leighton Smith, promised in a statement that his troops "will do everything" to help Bildt's office to remove Karadzic.

NATO spokesman Col. Charles-Henri de Noirmont underlined that NATO-led troops would only arrest indicted war criminals they encounter in the course of regular duties, not hunt for them.

The official from Bildt's office said, however, that NATO would be prepared to put a tighter seal on Pale, via increased ground patrols and range surveillance, and thus prevent Karadzic from moving around until Bosnia's Sept. 14 elections.

There likely would not be any such action until after tomorrow when the presidential runoff is held in Russia — a traditional supporter of the Serbs. Russia requested the delay at last week's meeting of the world's seven richest nations, where Moscow supported a call for new sanctions if Karadzic did not quit.

Karadzic is regarded as a major impediment to Sept. 14 elections that foreign officials see as a key step in their effort to stitch Bosnia together.

It was clear that the international community has hard work ahead to finally cut the flamboyant leader off from his base of support and force him to answer war crimes charges before a UN tribunal.

Bildt said Sunday that based on Karadzic's letter, the Bosnian Serb leader "cannot exercise any public functions or public powers as president of Republika Srpska," the Serbs' self-proclaimed state.

Bildt said there were no conditions attached and that it is now illegal for any Bosnian Serb official to take orders from Karadzic.

He acknowledged that Karadzic would still exert influence, but said it was a "losing battle."

Karadzic is prohibited from holding office by the 1995 Dayton accord, and the pressure on him to quit has grown steadily for weeks. Bildt had threatened to seek reimposed economic sanctions against Bosnia Serbs and Serbia if Karadzic did not step down.

Hong Kong democrats barred from China

HONG KONG (Reuters) — Hong Kong's final year as a British colony got off to a bitter start yesterday when China ejected eight Hong Kong Chinese politicians from Beijing and confiscated their travel documents.

The group flew to Beijing to petition China not to scrap their legislature after London returns the territory in 1997.

The eight, led by Democratic Party legislator Andrew Cheng, said Chinese security men scanned a three-page blacklist of Hong Kong undesirables after they landed in Beijing on a Dragonair flight from the colony yesterday.

The politicians carried a petition signed by 60,000 Hong Kong people asking China to jettison its plan to appoint a provisional legislature to replace the elected Legislative Council when Beijing takes back Hong Kong next July 1.

Chinese security personnel entered the plane on the tarmac at Beijing airport and the activists were not allowed off.

Legislator Tsang Kin-shing said he was pained at being barred from a land that he said he regarded as home and by the confiscation of the "return home" permits that allow Hong Kong Chinese routinely to enter mainland China.

"We are in a state of shock that there really is a blacklist — three pages long — with the names mostly of democrats... It is a lie when they say there is no blacklist," Tsang said.

One of China's top Hong Kong officials, Zhang Junsheng, said the "troublemakers" had been warned they would not be let in.

"They forced their way to make a spectacle. This will not be tolerated," Zhang told reporters. "They are deliberately provocative," he said.

Democratic Party leader Martin Lee, who did not attempt the journey, criticized China's reaction.

"Chinese leaders are not interested to hear from Hong Kong people anything other than what they want to hear," Lee said.

"What the Chinese authorities did today destroys the spirit of the 'one country, two systems' idea and has shattered our dream of a democratic Hong Kong after the handover," Cheng said.

The foiled activists said some of the security men stood at the door of the plane bearing rifles while checks took place.

Friends and relatives welcomed home the abortive mission at Hong Kong airport with flowers and tears.

Beijing has promised Hong Kong great autonomy after 1997 and pledged that the capitalist outpost of 6.2 million people can coexist with socialist China. But many in Hong Kong are sceptical and fear repressive rule.

As the one-year countdown began, politicians sent out mixed signals of faith and gloom. Chinese leaders issued assurances that virtually nothing would change except the flag.

Hundreds of pro-democracy protesters and demonstrators sympathetic towards Beijing held rival rallies without clashes over the weekend to mark the 365-day countdown.

British politicians set election strategy

LONDON (Reuters) — The tempo of British politics suddenly quickened yesterday as the ruling Conservative party settled on a strategy for the general election and its Labor foes put the finishing touches to their basic policy prospectus.

As a result, the main battle lines are now drawn for what promises to be a long, drawn-out election campaign.

Although Prime Minister John Major's grip on power is fragile, with an overall minority in parliament of just one, he told a political session of his cabinet that he intended to delay the election until close to the legal deadline of May 22.

The prime minister said it was still his firm intention to go the distance "till next May," a Conservative official said.

Major wants to put off the poll as long as possible in the hope that a growing economy will help to win back voters who deserted the Conservatives because of their divisions over Europe, reputation for sleaze and broken promises on tax.

Ministers were in what the official called a "very, very good upbeat mood" yesterday because of growing dissent in Labor ranks, clear evidence of a recovery in living standards and an upturn in recent opinion polls.

The two most recent national opinion polls showed that the Conservatives, in power since 1979, had narrowed Labor's lead to around 20 percent from 25-30 earlier this year.

"There's still plenty of time," the party aide said.

The main business of the political-cabinet was to endorse a definitive strategy for countering Labor, which has claimed the centre ground of British politics since Blair became leader two years ago and promptly ditched its old-style socialist policies.

Conservative strategists admitted they had failed so far to hurt Labor because they had sent mixed-up messages.

"If the Labor party is this far ahead in the polls, this is palpably the case," one said.

Paris mayor in new scandal

PARIS (AP) — France's latest political scandal heated yesterday when the mayor of Paris angrily said he'll file a breach of privacy complaint for leaks in a housing probe that targeted him.

The Paris prosecutor's office suddenly closed the case against Mayor Jean Tiberi over the weekend. A close ally of President Jacques Chirac, Tiberi was being investigated for using public funds to renovate a city-owned apartment for his son.

But the affair — the latest in a series of housing scandals to dog top conservatives — continues to be the talk of the town. Opponents of the conservative ruling party are crying cover-up, saying the real scandal is that the case was closed.

It was set aside a day after the Paris daily *Le Monde* revealed that anti-fraud police had been ordered not to aid the judge handling the inquiry when he went to search Tiberi's apartment.

Opposition Socialists and others have accused French Justice Minister Jacques Toubon of personally influencing the prosecutor to close the case. Toubon denies it and said he had "no part" in the decision.

"Is it Necessary to Close Toubon?" the leftist daily *Liberation* headlined yesterday over a large photo of the justice minister.

Emboldened by the prosecutor's decision to drop the probe, Tiberi said he would file a general breach of privacy complaint with the Paris tribunal over leaks to the press of details of the case.

"I'm a citizen, too, and I want them to respect me, my honor and my rights," he told a news conference, denouncing the affair as "a political slander operation."

"These accusations exist only in the minds of my detractors," said, lashing out at what he called "the multiplication of lies, allegations and accusations without proof."

But Lionel Jospin, a Socialist Party leader who lost to Chirac in last year's elections, cried scandal.

Jospin called the closing of the case "a serious threat to the right, one that the citizens will judge in 1998" in legislative elections.

Relative of the victims, however, were sharply critical.

"The police were negligent," Lavon Peals said. "My mother was killed over a damn traffic stop."

McCall said Sgt. Robert Stadler stopped a car in Centreville after clocking it at 90 kph in a 55 kph zone. The driver stopped, but then sped off and Stadler pursued.

About 2 km away in Alorton, the speeding car slammed into two cars, one of them driven by Peals' mother, Clementine Peals, 66.

Mrs. Peals was killed, as were Bessie L. Bynum, 81; Delores Martin, 72; and Dorothy Hopkins, 41, all of East St. Louis.

Stadler, 53, has been on the force for 28 years. "Believe me," said McCall, "he feels terrible about this."

Four women killed by car chased by police

ALORTON, Illinois (AP) — A speeding car being chased by police for a traffic violation slammed into two other vehicles in a residential area and killed four women driving home from church.

Both men in the fleeing car also died. The pursuing officer acted in accordance with his department rules, said Curtis McCall, police chief in nearby Centreville.

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Immune systems

PLAIN speaking is all too often a rare commodity among lawyers, but State Attorney Edna Arbel showed on Sunday she can be refreshingly blunt when need be. In her first meeting with reporters since taking office six months ago, she said the state should again try to lift Shas MK Raphael Pinhasi's Knesset immunity. "We certainly don't think the Knesset should be a city of refuge for people with indictments pending against them," Arbel stated.

She also admitted that the State Attorney's Office was in "a delicate and difficult position" given the preliminary police investigation into Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, over allegations that Ne'eman, four years ago, tried to intimidate a witness in the trial of Shas MK Aryeh Deri. Ne'eman did not make life easier for the state attorney when he claimed this allegation had been dropped up because the office did not want an observant Jew at the helm. It is imperative for the smooth running of the country's judicial system that the police finish their investigation into Ne'eman as quickly, and as thoroughly, as possible.

The decision to indict Pinhasi was taken by then-attorney-general Yosef Harish in 1993 for tax fraud and violations of the Party Funding Law. Pinhasi is suspected of illegally hiring yeshiva students - who are banned from working because they receive draft deferments - during Shas's 1988 election campaign. The indictment adds that Pinhasi failed to report this to the tax authorities and allegedly submitted a false set of books to the state comptroller.

As Harish said at the time, parliamentary immunity exists to enable MKs to speak and vote without fear or hindrance, and to facilitate

the smooth operation of the democratic process. It does not exist, for example, to hide records from the army or the tax authorities. But, in July 1993, in a shocking display of political cynicism, the Knesset plenum voted 54-50 not to remove Pinhasi's immunity. Coalition considerations, not ethics, played a major role in deciding which way MKs voted.

Arbel is to be praised for acting on the Movement for Quality Government's request to reopen the Pinhasi case, although the final decision as to whether to request the lifting of Pinhasi's immunity lies with Attorney-General Michael Ben Ya'ir. Should he decide to go ahead with the request, Ben-Ya'ir will find a number of hurdles in his way, the first being Pinhasi himself.

Although Pinhasi cannot be branded a criminal - given that he has successfully avoided standing trial, he has no convictions against him - the fact that he has an indictment pending should have been enough to disqualify him from sensitive, parliamentary posts. Instead, Shas decided to name him as their candidate to chair the Knesset House Committee, one of the committee chairmanships given them in the coalition negotiations.

Among other things, this committee handles requests from the attorney-general for the removal of Knesset members' parliamentary immunity. While there can be no doubt that Pinhasi would suspend himself from chairing any meeting concerning his case, there is still the fear that coalition considerations (the Knesset House Committee is a vital tool in ensuring the smooth running of government-proposed legislation) would once again override the moral aspect of the case.

Reform protest

THE Reform movement's unease with the power of the religious parties in the new government is understandable. But on a visit to Israel this week, Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman, president of the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College, went beyond the bounds within which such displeasure is usually expressed. During an interview, he stated that American leaders of the Reform movement had refused to sign a general statement of support for the new government drafted by officials of the UJA and the Jewish federations.

This refusal to sign an innocuous message is surprising because it represents a break with the long-standing tradition that the American Jewish community supports the Israeli government in public, whatever their disagreements in private. More galling is that fact that Zimmerman is seemingly trying to dictate what laws Israel's democratically elected Knesset may pass. Zimmerman is annoyed by the religious parties' desire to pass legislation which would deny recognition to Reform and Conservative conversions performed in Israel. The Reform movement, he said, is worried that the new

government will erode the rights granted the non-Orthodox by the High Court of Justice. In fact, the High Court never actually recognized non-Orthodox conversions. In a ruling last summer, the court said the state's justification for not recognizing these conversions was invalid, but deliberately stopped short of declaring the conversions valid. Instead, it suggested that the Knesset state its opinion on the issue via legislation - which is what the new government intends to do.

Diaspora Jews have every right to lobby both the Israeli people and the Israeli government. However, trying to bully Israel's legislature is hardly a way to win sympathy for their cause. If American Jews truly want to influence the treatment of the Reform and Conservative movements here, there is ultimately only one solution: Large-scale immigration. Currently, these movements represent about 1.5% of Israel's population, compared to some 20% for the Orthodox. As in any democracy, there is no doubt that were their numbers to grow, then so would their influence, making the refusal to sign a message of support unnecessary.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE COVENANT

Sir, - "Klotzkashe" is the Yiddish for a question so silly that it's hard to find a sensible answer. Most of Yisrael Medad's *Klotzkashe* (Letters, June 21) reflect the Israeli attitude and have no relevance to the simple fact that the Palestine National Covenant, adopted in 1964, no longer exists.

The depth of inanity, however, is reached in the same issue by Shmuel Katz, who declares that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat "lifted not a finger" to abrogate or amend the covenant, and an answer to him may also serve, partially, for Medad.

In 1985 Arafat and the PLO rejected "terrorism in all its forms" and called for peace negotiations with Israel on the basis of Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967. This declaration, despite its aggressive language, violated the fundamental principles of the covenant, which denied Israel's right to exist in any boundaries and called for its destruction by armed struggle.

However, the covenant was not formally abrogated or amended, and even the Rabin-Peres government of 1992 was not satisfied. During the Oslo negotiations, it demanded a clearer statement.

In his official letter of September 9, 1993, on behalf of the PLO, Arafat accepted Israel's right to exist in peace and security, renouncing terrorism and violence.

Katz's statement that Arafat undertook in 1993 that "the covenant remain in force until a 'committee' decides which clauses are to be

amended" is a simple falsehood. On the contrary, Arafat declared in his letter that all provisions of the covenant inconsistent with it "are now inoperative and no longer valid."

The Israeli government, however, was not content until Arafat had assembled the more than 600 members of the Council and pushed through by an overwhelming majority a resolution endorsing its 1993 letter and declaring that the covenant "is now amended" (not, as Katz falsely writes, "would be amended") by canceling all provisions inconsistent with it.

Arafat, therefore, lifted much more than a "finger." The fact that at each stage he went further was due, of course, to the insistence of the Israeli government presumably in order to satisfy public opinion.

I cannot understand why Yisrael Medad did not understand these elementary facts, but there is some point in his last query. The question is whether all the fuss about the covenant is not superfluous. What exactly was its validity, in practice, before it was amended?

Perhaps Professor Yehoshua Porat will tell us: Did any of Arafat's many opponents in the PLO appeal to some kind of PLO High Court (is there one?) against his flagrant violations of the covenant in the last decade? Did any prospective Hamas suicide bomber say: "It's all right for me to do this; it says so in Article so-and-so of the covenant?"

Jerusalem.

MISHA LOUVISH

SHOOT DOWN

Sir, - When Gaddafi flouted the UN embargo by flying to the Arab summit in Cairo, the UN had the right and obligation to use this golden opportunity to shoot him down.

What is the sense of an embargo if it is not enforced?

DR. JACOB ROSIN
Netanya.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Sir, - I am writing in support of Dr. Ori Tamir's letter, "Absentee Ballots" (J.P., June 18).

Unfortunately, when the Knesset Law Committee worked on election reform and, later when the matter was taken up by the entire parliament, the matter of permitting Israeli citizens abroad to participate in all national elections was never considered.

To date, few in the Knesset have much interest or concern for the many *Yordim* outside the geographical boundaries of the Jewish State.

If Israel wants to be considered a democracy in the modern world, the new Netanyahu administration ought to emulate the United States, United Kingdom, France and South Africa, to name a few among other Western democracies, by granting its citizens residing abroad their rightful franchise.

Having been intimately involved with the American absentee ballot process and personally responsible for legislation ensuring that all who want to vote in absentia will be able to, I suggest that among new statutes regarding election reform in Israel, the government enact provisions for all Israelis abroad to participate in all state elections, by having them request and obtain an absentee ballot by post, E-mail, fax or at their nearest Israeli consulate, at least 60 days before any general election. Completed absentee ballots ought either to be turned in at any Israeli consulate and forwarded via the diplomatic pouch, or accepted directly by the Central Elections Committee, no later than seven days before Election Day, by post or electronic transmission.

The only way Israelis abroad can ever hope to gain their rightful franchise is if they petition their government on mass.

DAVID FROEHLICH
Rehovot.



One goal, two heads

EVERY Knesset has its odd couples who get together to work for a political goal.

In the 12th Knesset it was Yossi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement) and Benny Begin (Likud). In the 13th it was Dedi Zucker (Meretz) and Dan Meridor (Likud). In this Knesset it is the new Likud chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Uzi Landau, and Labor's Yossi Beilin.

The issue that has brought them together is the direct election of the premier. Both want to abolish the new system, and have jointly tabled a bill to this effect.

The election results - naturally more pleasing to Landau than to Beilin - weren't the reason for the duo's initiative, even though the results bore out their main arguments against the system.

The two had already agreed for the cancellation of the law during the 13th Knesset, arguing that by its adoption the legislature would be excessively weakened vis-à-vis the head of the executive branch, and the two large parties vis-à-vis the smaller ones.

While signs of the first problem are yet to unfold fully, signs of the second are already clearly visible.

There is no doubt that the two major parties were greatly weakened by the election campaign's focus on their two leaders, Peres and Netanyahu, rather than on the differences in ideology and approach between them; and by the fact that voters could separate their choice of prime minister from their choice of party.

One might add that the two parties were also weakened by the introduction of the primaries system in both. This loosened the bond between the parties and their

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

interest in this particular coalition being formed.

The strengthening of the small parties isn't just a function of Binyamin Netanyahu's excessive haste in forming his government (and possibly his wish to settle accounts with the Likud "princes" and the old party apparatus).

As mentioned above, the small parties greatly benefited from the option of split voting. The result: an underscoring of all our various social divides - religious/secular, Ashkenazi/Sephardi, Jewish/Arab, new immigrant/veteran. There will now doubtless be a retreat in the battle for overall constitutional, social and economic reform in favor of sectoral interests.

What Landau and Beilin aspire to is a system in which the leader of the largest party gets called upon by the president to form a new government after elections. While it is too early to tell whether they have any chance of achieving their common goal, at least three factors will be working against them:

- Binyamin Netanyahu will fight them to the bitter end, and the future contenders, for the Labor Party leadership might side with him.
- Most of the small parties are well content with the new system, which has operated to their benefit.
- The new chairman of the Constitution, Law and Justice Committee, which will be in charge of preparing the proposed bill for preliminary reading in the Knesset plenary is the National Religious Party's Shaul Yahalom - and he is unlikely to pursue the task with any enthusiasm.

The latest Knesset 'odd couple': Landau & Beilin

tion) has always been to move Israel toward a two-party system, giving it more stable and coherent governments and reducing the blackmailing power of the small parties.

THE NEW system has achieved the exact opposite.

Ever since the political alignments around Mapai and the Herut Movement began to crystallize in the period before the elections to the Sixth Knesset in 1965 (when the Alignment and Gahal, forerunners of the Labor and Likud parties were established), there has never been a Knesset in which the two large parties had so few seats between them - 66 seats in the 14th Knesset, compared to 95 in the 10th. Also, there has never been a coalition in Israel in which the smaller parties got so much, even though most of them had a vested

The writer is a political scientist.

If you don't like the rules...

IMAGINE if after the Olympics the big countries were to declare a crisis because in their opinion the small countries had won too many medals.

Imagine a demand to change the rules in order to guarantee that the big countries would be the big winners.

Too blatantly unfair to happen in amateur sport? Not in professional politics. The big Israeli parties, shocked at the voters' turn against them in the last elections, are calling for changes that would make our democratic disapproval of them less effective.

Already the rules penalize small parties for being small. The threshold percentage means you can't claim your first seat in the Knesset without having 80 percent of the votes for a second one.

That's like the Olympic Committee saying to a country: Unless you can get at least a silver medal as well, your gold medal doesn't count.

Because of the threshold percentage and its discouraging influence, we scarcely have truly small parties in Israel. Only Moledet has fewer than four seats.

Faced by such imposing numbers as the quorum of Shasniks and the seven Sharanskyites, you might think that a canny big-party establishment would encourage them to splinter in the next elections. You'd think the establishment now would encourage one-seat and two-seat parties, which could more easily be swapped into or out of the government at will.

MARK L. LEVINSON

But the big parties want more: They want those seats for themselves. Accordingly, Uzi Landau and Yossi Beilin have floated the idea of handing the Prime Minister's Office to whatever party wins the most votes. On June 26 *The Jerusalem Post's* reporter airily called this "basically the old system," but it is decisively different.

Under the old system, the president gave the job of forming a government to the party most likely to succeed.

What amateur sport wouldn't tolerate professional politics apparently can

"The President has always chosen the largest party," Labor would remind us in its old campaign ads, and truthfully. "But that's not the point; it's the largest bloc that counts, not the largest party," Meretz would say, also truthfully.

At prime-minister level, a vote for Meretz was as good as a vote for Labor, and a vote for Moledet was as good as a vote for Labor.

LANDAU and Beilin want to change that.

If, for example, this year's votes

had been cast under the Landau-Beilin system, Shimon Peres would be our leader today. The right wing was the larger bloc, but the largest party was Labor.

Not that the votes would have come in the same under Landau-Beilin.

As the two MKs know, if the premiership were decided exclusively by the race between the big parties, we would tend to vote for one of those parties.

A strong Meretz showing, after all, would profit the leftists little under a Likud prime minister. And nothing would unite the right wing under the Likud like the threat of another Shimon Peres as premier.

Far from being a return to the old system, what's being proposed is essentially a new two-party system, with other parties finding support only from those who don't care who the prime minister is, or at times when the job is not seriously contested.

The old system was like an Olympic parade. Large and small delegations marched with equal pride, each under its own flag.

Under Landau-Beilin, in contrast, the whole Knesset campaign would amount to a fight to see which of two parties shoves the other to the margins, just as the first personal campaign for prime minister was a single, ugly, sweaty bout of sumo wrestling. A one-on-one.

The writer is a Herzliya-based freelancer.

POSTSCRIPT

SNOWSHOES DESIGNED for use in Arctic temperatures have become standard gear in south Florida for park rangers.

The snowshoes are used to keep the rangers' feet from sinking into the silty bottom of the national park between the Florida Keys and Miami.

"When people first see us get

out of the boat with snowshoes on, they look at us like we're idiots," said park ranger Kim Korhunis.

Snowshoes are also used by rangers in nearby Everglades National Park for wading through Florida Bay.

David Pharo, a park ranger at Biscayne Bay, said the web-foot-

ed gear prevents damage to delicate seagrass, which acts as a filter for the bay by trapping sediment, and is a nursery for tiny marine life.

"You can sink to your waist out there," said Pharo. "With snowshoes, you stay on top and don't damage the grass. It just bends over and comes right back up."

The writer comments on current affairs.

delicia 1520

Bryan waves bye to street cred

IN TUNE
DAVID BRINN

18 TIL I DIE
Bryan Adams (Helicon)
THIS offering is the nadir of a career that has seen many high and low points. If it's true that Bryan Adams has always been considered a poor man's Bruce Springsteen, then it's time to update that theory. The man has lost whatever he had and is now poverty-stricken.

There was a time in the mid '80s when hearing a Bryan Adams tune on the radio was a pleasure, albeit a small one. Workmanlike rock 'n' roll performed in an earnest, gruff-voiced manner was his trademark, and the results made him sound like Bob Seger's unimaginative, yet likable cousin. Adams hit it big in the pop-ballad market with a string of hits that would have made the likes of Air Supply blush in their greeting-card sentiments.

The two divergent styles, raunchy rockers and mushy ballads, have reached their extreme on *18 Til I Die* to the point where Adams sounds like a parody of himself.

The rockers, including the title song, "The Only Thing That Looks Good on Me is You" and the execrable "I Wanna Be Your



Adams manages only two moods: mush and raunch. His versions of both are an ad man's dream.

Underwear," sound like a corporate advertiser's vision of a rock song - clichéd riffs, inane lyrics, but catchy hooks that linger.

Sample lyrics: "Don't worry about the future/forget about the past/gonna have a ball, ya/ we're gonna have a blast."

The ballads, of which the hit "Have You Ever Loved a Woman" (from the *Don Juan De Marco* soundtrack) is the best, drip with sap, although technically they are perfectly crafted.

Not only are the sudden shifts from the romance-filled ballads to the lust-filled rockers jarring, but they signal a calculated dishonesty and erase whatever credibility Adams had to begin with.

RECURRING DREAMS

Crowded House - The Very Best of (NMC)

This greatest-hits compilation sounds like the solo album Paul McCartney has never made.

One of the best and most under-appreciated bands of the last decade, Crowded House is the brainchild of New Zealander Neil Finn who, along with his brother Tim, led the band Split Enz from the mid '70s to the mid '80s.

Crowded House curbed Split Enz's arty pretensions and focused on Finn's instinctive ability to write precise pop songs that contained depth and emotion. Gorgeously melodic, superb harmonies and an infectious spirit permeate these 19 tracks culled from the band's four albums.

If you've never heard the band, this is the place to start. As the liner notes by one Peter Paphides say: "If there's one thing that delights me more than hearing these songs, it's the thought that someone somewhere will be playing them for the very first time."

The accompanying bonus CD of 15 previously unreleased live tracks is less satisfying. Indicating that Crowded House's strength was in the studio, Finn's songs are pitted against suffocating synthesized keyboards and a rather lackluster delivery which threaten to turn the music into anonymous arena-rock. Luckily, the songs are so strong, they win the battle.

Paperback Writer
The second installment in

Yarden Uriel's excellent Hebrew-language history of the Beatles, *The Way Up* has just been published covering the years 1961-1962. Great rare pictures, in-depth research and a large-print format make this a must for the serious Beatles fan.

- Fame
(Ten essential David Bowie songs)
1. Heroes
 2. Space Oddity
 3. Suffragette City
 4. Ziggy Stardust
 5. Lady Stardust
 6. Changes
 7. Rebel Rebel
 8. Young Americans
 9. All the Young Dudes
 10. Ashes to Ashes

Getting less, and more, than you bartered for

SMETANA'S *The Bartered Bride* is a light, funny, and occasionally tragic comic opera. Inspired by Bohemian or ersatz folk tunes, it is neither profound nor allegorical. Nor can it be interpreted as a psychological drama.

Given all this, it is especially difficult to understand why director Paul McCaffery decided to turn the revival of this opera into such a gloomy event.

Most of the characters are clad in black and presented as foreboding, surrealistic silhouettes. Liat Dror and Nir Ben Gal's choreography expresses doom-day.

However, while this reviewer doesn't like what the director and choreographers have done, it must be said that they have done it brilliantly.

The Bartered Bride is actually one of the NIO's most professional productions. We can hardly imagine a better cast and a better quartet of principals - soprano Marina Levit as Mareška, tenor Valentin Prolat as Jeník, bass Tamas Szele as Kecal the marriage broker, and tenor Harry Nicoll as Vasek.

The four acted and sang marvellously. They all identified with their parts and therefore achieved the supreme goal of modern opera: the complete oneness of singer and actor. Czech diction was perfect (kudos to language coach Irma Bendersky) and the chorus sounded more determined and stouter than ever.

The dances, though seemingly

parachuted into this performance arbitrarily, were extremely impressive. The sets - even though they served purposes for which they were not designed - were immensely pleasing on their own. And a real surprise were the charming lighting effects by Avi Yona Buzano (Bambi).

Conductor Mark Ermler remained mainly in the background, never imprinting his personality on the performance. The outstanding musicality with which the singers tackled their parts may have been more the result of Susana Lemberskaya's preparation work.

Nevertheless, the orchestra, despite the conductor's refusal to involve himself more actively, performed well, although there were a few incidents when conductor and strings completely lost contact.

Ermler is a versed pit conductor but not the kind of operatic conductor who, nowadays, together with the director, actually decides the fate of the production.

Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, June 22.
Benjamin Bar-Am

THE major music event in Jerusalem last week was the performance of Schubert's Mass No. 6, one of his most grandiose yet intimate (and therefore profoundly moving) works, by the Beersheba Symphony, conducted by Uri Mayer.

This very personal expression of faith was performed together with the Tel Aviv Philharmonic

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Choir and the soloist singers Arianna Zuckerman, Galina Malinsky, Paolo Vignoli and Victor Pulver.

"A jubilant, truly glorious *Gloria*, following a still-introverted and meditative *Kyrie*, highlighted the choir's resounding voices at their most impressive."

In *Miserere nobis*, it expressed an intense, heart-rending supplication. The *Credo* assumed the character of an internationalized, sincere confession.

There was something lied-like, endearingly sweet and lyrical about the soloists' trio *Et incarnatus est* and the concluding, imploringly human Quartet *Dona nobis pacem*, with their harmoniously blending voices.

The opening "Unfinished" Symphony, which was not strictly needed considering the length of the Mass, was nevertheless played with careful attention to the work's many subtleties.

Even the forte chords were produced with characteristic Schubert-like softness.

Jerusalem Theater, June 24.
Ury Eppstein

THE young cellist Timora Roselar's playing is like a fresh breeze. It was invigorating and full of vitality, in her recital with Ron Reggev in the Friday Noon Music from Ein Kerem series.

The most important work in the world for her seems to always be

the one that she happens to be playing at the moment. Even insignificant trifles, such as a Boccherini sonata - pleasantly harking back to Pergolesi - or David Popper's *Polonaise de Concert* thus emerge as glittering gems, dashed off with zest as well as loving care, sweeping away even the inherent schmaltziness of the Popper piece and turning it into a pure delight.

In the much more demanding Beethoven Sonata No. 3, there were no unimportant notes but a fine distinction between the more important ones and those that are less so.

There was a refreshing tempo-tossiness in the fast movements, soulful lyrical expression in the melodious episodes, and significant accents in the shaping of phrases.

Reggev's rarely performed Suite No. 2 displayed a well-rounded, sonorous tone, and refreshing temperament in the fast movements.

Reggev was an attentive, sensitive partner in the Beethoven sonata, and rendered Haydn's *Variations in F minor* with a light yet decisive touch, clarity and a finely developed aesthetic sense.

Targ Music Center, June 28.
Ury Eppstein

THE crop of two weeks' master classes at the Jerusalem International Chamber Music encounters was proudly presented in a seemingly never-ending closing concert of marathon dimensions comprising eight young

ensembles from different countries.

The names of the international celebrities who had trained each of them were discreetly left undisclosed in the program notes - mercifully for some and ungratefully for others.

Naturally, not all of such a formidable number of different groups can be equally outstanding, and some merely sounded well-trained - an achievement in itself, though a minor one.

Others, such as the Veronica Spring Quartet, put some of their colleagues in its shadow. The quartet aroused particular interest by having selected an off-the-beaten-track yet deserving work - Berg's Quartet No. 3 - and, then, by doing more than just playing the correct notes. It succeeded in revealing the concealed Romantic roots of this modernist work, making it sound unabashedly and gloriously Romantic.

The Jerusalem Piano Trio (Roy Shiloah, Ariel Tushinsky, Yaron Rosenthal) deserves special mention for presenting a gripping rendition of Brahms's Trio op. 8 - sensitive as well as warm-blooded and exuberant.

The Kinneret Piano Trio (Michael Vitenson, Guy Gadaev, Dmitry Steinberg) achieved an above-average level by convincingly displaying the explosive energies of Shostakovich's Trio op. 67, its elegiac slow movements and the composer's characteristic irony in its final one.

Jerusalem Music Center, *Mishkenot Sha'ananim*, June 29.
Ury Eppstein

Lahti steps up to the table on 'Chicago Hope'

JUDITH MICHAELSON
HOLLYWOOD

SITTING on her sprawling back lawn because the house she just moved into is suffused with the smell of fresh paint, actress Christine Lahti is the picture of contentment.

Her large black Labrador is snoozing nearby, the three-year-old twins are asleep upstairs, a gurgling pond forms a backdrop to conversation, and soon a car will come to whisk her to the set of *Chicago Hope*, where she plays Dr. Kathryn Austin, the dynamic new heart surgeon and a vital addition to a changing cast.

(The series begins its second local season on Channel 2, tomorrow at 9:30 p.m.)

With the recent departure of Mandy Patinkin - whose portrayal of the brilliant but increasingly unghed Dr. Jeffrey Geiger won him a best-actor Emmy in September - Lahti moves to center stage.

Suddenly in TV medical dramas, it's the time for women doctors. And not just any female physician wearing a stethoscope, but female doctors in power. While *ER* recently placed a new chief resident (Laura Innes as Dr. Kerry Weaver) among its gaggle of hunks, *Chicago Hope* has raised the profile a notch higher with a physician who maneuvers as smoothly at the operating table as she does at the poker table.

"I'm almost positive I will become head cardiac surgeon," Lahti says of her character. "And I hope to become chief of surgery; the whole shebang." First of all, that there is a woman cardiac surgeon, and second, that she would become chief of surgery.

"So that's really going to bust up the boys' club," she says, grinning. And, of course, set up some delicious dramatic possibilities, particularly when romance looms with neurosurgeon Aaron Shutt (Adam Arkin).

A surgeon's daughter with the long, tapered fingers of a surgeon, Lahti looks the part. But unlike her character, who "hasn't learned to really prioritize," Lahti says that with lots of therapy, she has learned how to juggle family needs with career ambitions. She is married to director Thomas Schlamme, and they have an eight-year-old son in addition to the twins.

"Before I got married and had kids," she says, "if I didn't work, I didn't know who I was." Until now, the 45-year-old

actress's forte has been theater and character-driven parts in movies such as *Swing Shift* (1984), as Goldie Hawn's spunky girlfriend; *Housekeeping* (1987), as the eccentric aunt, and *Running on Empty* (1988), as a mother who had a radical underground past. But she went after the TV role aggressively.

As series creator David E. Kelley explained: "She came in and said, 'You need me, I'm it, take me.' And we said OK."

"We knew that Mandy was leaving eventually and we would probably add somebody," Kelley said, "but we didn't know whether it would be man or woman, heart surgeon or ophthalmologist."

"Christine then called and cleared it all up for us. She seemed to have all the ingredients you look for in a lead character. She exudes power."

Although Schlamme directed two episodes of *Chicago Hope* last season, Lahti heard about Patinkin's plans from "best girlfriend" Jessie Nelson, writer-director of *Corrina, Corrina* and a close friend and writing partner of Patinkin's wife.

"I had mentioned that if I was ever to do a series, it would be working with someone like David Kelley in a part like Mandy Patinkin's," Lahti recalled. So when Nelson phoned, saying, "I have a brainstorm: Why don't you replace Mandy?"

Lahti decided to go for the role on the spot.

"I'm reading all these really mediocre feature-film scripts. I do plays, but I can't really make a good living doing that. So what am I being snobbish about television for?" she reasoned. "Now suddenly the writing on television is so far superior in certain cases to much of the feature-film stuff."

After seeing herself in *Hideaway*, a movie in which she played yet another of those "earnest movie" roles that tend to be offered actresses over 35, Lahti was, in a sense, prepped for TV.

"At the time, I needed to get back to work. I had just had the twins. I needed to make some money. So I'm glad I did it. But I thought, 'I'm being wasted and I don't want to do that anymore.' I'm at my prime creatively, and suddenly I'm in an industry where I'm supposed to be invisible. Or less valuable. When I feel I'm at the peak. My peak." (Los Angeles Times)

Commedia dell'arte reduced to horseplay

THEATER REVIEW
NAOMI DAUDAI

THE LIAR

By Carlo Goldoni. Hebrew adaptation and direction, Roni Pinkowitch. Set, Adrian Vaux. Costumes, Edna Sobol. Lighting, Amit Brenner. Music, Boaz Bareket. Movement, Eran Lavi. Hebrew title *Haskaran*. At the Haifa Municipal Theater.

Rosario - Adva Cohen
Beatrice - Shira Eban
Pantolino - Arish Moscona
Libio - Zvika Hadar

ANYONE who remembers Roni Pinkowitch's early flourish as a coming director (*Fraudo* at Biton, *Arsenic and Lace* at Habimah) can only be severely disappointed by his version of Goldoni's commedia-dell'arte classic. Hopefully it does not constitute a serious setback in a promising career.

I am all for transposing to local settings cultural milieux that are difficult to capture on the Israeli

stage. This, on condition that in so doing the original quality is not tampered with or worse, travestied. Pinkowitch is guilty of both sins, of commission as well as omission.

For this show he has conscripted performers from the popular worlds of stand-up comedy, mime, clowning and slapstick. They indulge in the sort of endless horseplay and high-pitched vaudeville that turns Goldoni's elegant entertainment into bawdy burlesque. Suitable served up as street performance, it might also please the patrons of the cruder kind of cabaret show. But on Haifa's main stage it played to a largely stony-faced audience.

Humor is a mercurial quantity. What makes one wine may set another off in stitches. These high jinks did just that for a chosen few who obliged by laughing hysterically throughout. Be that as it may, theatergoers can still choose their show but directors, so far, cannot choose their audience.

Ballet: A midsummer night's revelation

WHAT a *Dream*: the work of one genius (William Shakespeare) transferred through the medium of another genius (Frederick Ashton) and united with the music of third (Felix Mendelssohn) - a trio in perfect combination - brilliantly "translated" to the stage by the Royal Ballet from Covent Garden (London) at the Opera House of the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center (June 27). For anyone who cherished memories of the 1980s premiere of this masterpiece, this production renewed the elation of the comedy, the immaculate absurdity of the plot, and the intensity of the dancing. For anyone new to it, the production must have been a revelation of the spirit of beauty and fun.

The Efrom Choir and the Ra'anana Orchestra (conducted by Peter Ernst Lassen) supported the story which, as presented here, was an adaptation by Ashton of the full play. As ballet, it was complete in itself, with midsummer madness interpreted in choreographic terms.

True, there were details at odds with the play. Titania (Sarah Wildor) for instance was a capricious, delicious doll, not a fairy queen. Oberon (William Trevitt) however, supplied regality and

magical illumination. At first, Anthony Boone seemed too large for the mischievous elf Puck but his style was persuasive. The human couples were delightful in their period costumes and silly confusions; and Bottom (Peter Abegglen), as the yokel who is turned into an ass was thoroughly convincing.

This truly British performance was a real gem.

The audience seemed even more appreciative of Ashton's more patrician, though lesser work. *Rhapsody*, set to Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto on a theme by Paganini (pianist: Philip Ganmon).

Ashley Page's *Fearful Symmetries* (the title is derived from William Blake's poem "The Tyger"), with music by John Adams, starred Irek Mukhamedov. In the dim light now so fashionable in modern ballet, it was full of tumult and turbulence. Mukhamedov's shoulders, powerful as a wrestler, swished and turned in a performance which fit most people's bill.

IN THE newly named Inbal Ethnic Dance Center in Tel Aviv, the Inbal Dance Theater presented a program by Sara Levi-Tanai and

DANCE

DORA SOWDEN

Ilana Cohen (June 25). The works of Levi-Tanai are a national treasure, and this program whetted the appetite for more.

Levi-Tanai's *Women*, an early comedy on the habits of villagers - gossiping, arguing, vying to show their domestic skills - was a re-creation rather than a revival, a little overplayed but still joyous entertainment.

Levi-Tanai's greatness was best seen in the biblically inspired *Song of Songs*, where voices and

movement blended into that special kind of Israeli art dance. The choreography here was bold, picturesque and so structured that a woman, obviously a shepherdess, could be carried by a group of men on their joined-up sticks. The costuming, which bore reference to the season of nuts, contributed to a fascinating scene.

Ilana Cohen's *Lamentation* was a melodramatic study of two women in their grief. Her *Jug* was a solo in which a young girl seemed to confide her thoughts to the vessel she was carrying.

These two well-wrought pieces were quite clearly art dance, not

folk dance, but developed from folkloristic origins - quite unlike, say, the *Bokharan Wedding* staged in the same theater (June 11) with rich costume and much fanfare.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, July 2, 1996

Turkish markets cautious over new coalition

ISTANBUL (Reuters) - Turkish financial markets remained cautious yesterday because of the upcoming vote of confidence in the new Islamist-led coalition, but analysts said investors were calm because they did not expect the government to drastically change Turkey's economic policies.

"Markets are very quiet as there is still an uncertainty over the new government until the confidence vote," said Bora Cilek, assistant general manager at Midland Bank in Turkey.

"There was a slight reaction to Islamists coming to power on Friday. But no one awaits big fluctuations at present," he said.

Necmettin Erbakan, head of the Islam-based Welfare Party (RP), became Moslem but secular Turkey's first Islamist leader on Friday in a coalition with conservative leader and former prime minister Tansu Ciller, a US-educated technocrat with close personal and political ties to the West.

Ciller is to be Erbakan's deputy and foreign minister under a four-year rotating premiership deal which sees the Islamist leader taking the top job for the first two years. The confidence vote will be held in about a week.

Economists and officials expect

no radical changes in Turkey's present economic policies, which stress privatization, budget-cutting and strengthening economic ties with the West.

"Because the Islamists are not ruling the country alone and left the economy to their junior [conservative] partner, the markets expect no radical changes from the new government," said Ali Ozenc, cash flow manager at private Finansbank.

Political concerns still sapped some strength from the Turkish lira, which fell slightly against the US dollar while yields on Treasury-bills rose one to four percentage points.

The lira closed at 81.925 to the dollar, weaker than Friday's 81.710, but firmed from \$2.140 per dollar at the opening due to a severe cash squeeze in the money market.

Istanbul shares were slightly lower amid anxiety ahead of the vote. The composite index fell an average 0.23 percent over Friday's 2 1/2-month high to close at 70,328.76.

The coalition on paper has nine MPs more than the 276 needed to win a confidence vote, but dissidents from Ciller's True Path Party (DYP) and members of a small right-wing party could sway the vote either way.

Central bank index indicates slowdown

Integrated indicators index down for 1st time since '93

Jerusalem Post Staff

A SIGNIFICANT sign of an impending economic slowdown emerged yesterday when the Bank of Israel said its index of integrated indicators declined in May by 0.7 percent in comparison with the previous month, the first contraction in more than three years of this broad measurement of the economy's overall vitality.

The index, which comprises indicators relating to imports, retail commerce, industrial production and business-sector jobs, rose over the four months preceding May by an average of 0.7%, and by an average of 9% a year

over the past six years.

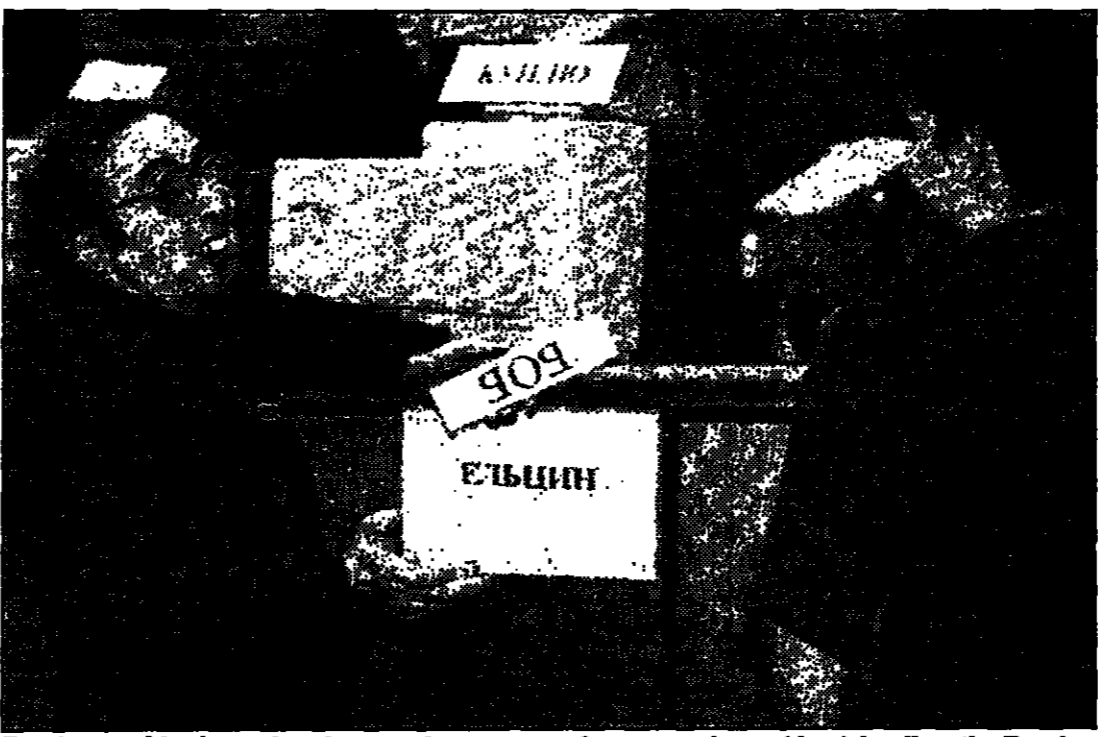
The most significant decline was registered in the import index which dropped 7.1%, reflecting particularly weakened industrial demands. The industrial-production index itself shrank in May by 2%.

The Central Bureau of Statistics yesterday reported that the pace of growth in factory orders for equipment and machinery slowed during the April-May period to 6.7% after having stood at 13.17% during the previous two months, and 17-20% during the second

half of last year.

Organized retail commerce sales also slowed in May, when they grew at an annual pace of 9%, compared to 12-14% growth in the previous two-month period, and 15-18% over last year's second half.

Meanwhile, the central bank also reported a \$360 million decline in June of foreign currency reserves which now stand at \$8.89 billion. This was the fifth straight monthly drop in non-shekel deposits. The central bank attributed the decline to government transfers abroad in the amount of \$307 million.



Russian stockbrokers place bets on the outcome of tomorrow's presidential poll at the Russian Stock Exchange in Moscow yesterday. Brokers have devised futures contracts with starting prices based on election candidates' opinion poll ratings. If the candidate gets more than the predicted number of votes, the holder of the futures contract wins 10,000 rubles per percentage point. (Reuters)

Kemet rejects Vishay's purchase offer

GREENVILLE, South Carolina - Kemet Corp. rejected rival electronic components maker Vishay Intertechnology Corp.'s acquisition proposal and adopted an anti-takeover measure to make it less attractive to an unwanted suitor.

Kemet was caught off-guard last week when Vishay sent Kemet a letter saying it was interested in buying the company. Analysts valued the potential transaction at more than \$1 billion. The companies had no comment on the potential purchase price.

Kemet yesterday said it told Vishay that it wasn't interested in

discussing the proposal, citing its "strong future prospects as an independent company." The companies compete in the \$15 billion-a-year market for capacitors - components used in computers and electronic devices. Both companies have suffered recently from weakening demand in the personal computer and telecommunication industries.

Kemet also said it adopted a measure, commonly referred to as a poison pill, that discourages a takeover bid.

The measure gives Kemet shareholders a right to buy one-thousandth of a new series of junior participating preferred stock at \$85 - only in the event that a person or group acquires or announces a tender offer for 15 percent or more of Kemet's common stock.

The measure ensures stockholders have no desire to convert the stock because of the dividend adjustments, unless the company is taken over. It also means that any takeover attempt would increase the price of Kemet's stock, making the company more expensive to a potential bidder.

Vishay, based in Malvern, Pennsylvania, is the largest US maker of passive electronic components. (Bloomberg)

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Government licenses 5 oil drills

DAVID HARRIS

THE government has awarded the first five licenses to drill for oil in Israel's deep waters in the Mediterranean.

The winning consortium, headed by Avner Oil and Gas Ltd., intends to drill off the coast at unspecified locations between Haifa and the Gaza Strip by the end of next year.

The first stage is to find further financial and technical partners, followed by a seismic study of the area between October and December, Avner's managing director Eli Rosenberg said yesterday. "Drilling will hopefully begin before the end of 1997," he added.

Rosenberg dismissed suggestions that the total cost of the project will be around \$1 billion. He

estimated that the initial drilling, at a 1500 meter-depth, will cost \$25 million.

"Israel's deep waters appear to be very promising," according to government's director of petroleum research Dr. Yehzekel Druckman, who granted the licenses.

This confidence stems from the results of previous drillings in the nearby shallow waters by Isramco in the early 1990s, which suggested the area is oil-rich.

Avner, together with Delek Kiduchim and Enserch Middle East, had to be granted five licenses to carry out the project, because each only covers 400 square kilo-

meters.

While experts agree the area could prove lucrative, there is a variance of opinion as to how much oil is needed to make the operation economically viable. Druckman suggested a minimum of 3,000 to 5,000 barrels a day. Others believe more would be needed.

"For a successful well in that depth of water, they need thousands of barrels," said Yaron Ran, the managing director of Israel National Oil Company.

Avner claims the support of many international oil companies, and said a former vice-president of the world's largest publicly owned oil company, Exxon Corporation, described the prospect as "world-class."

UN oil deal stabilizes Iraqi dinar, commodity prices

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraq's oil deal with the United Nations is bringing stability to the battered local currency and prices of essential commodities for the first time since 1990.

A steady currency is also encouraging the government to overlook prohibitions on the possession and circulation of hard cash in Iraq. Traders and businessmen in Shorja, the country's commercial hub, now openly conclude deals in US dollars.

"They [authorities] have never been so tolerant as they are now," said one trader. "We now carry our dollars in the same way we carry our dinars."

Several Iraqis carried sacks full of dinars as they left an exchange house in Baghdad's Saadoun street. Peering over the famous Nasr (Victory) Square in Baghdad are two huge posters, one for the

pound sterling and the other for the US dollar.

"It is probably a sign of new times. I could not imagine to have those pictures at a sensitive area in Baghdad even two years ago," said a passer-by.

Inside al-I'timad exchange a sign-board gave yesterday's rates for the US dollar, the Jordanian dinar and other foreign currencies.

The government's relaxation of rules on the circulation of hard cash has almost led to the demise of once a thriving black market in Baghdad. About 40 government-licensed exchange houses now give rates equivalent or close to those offered by kurb dealers.

Yesterday the US dollar fetched about 1,000 dinars at official exchange offices. "It [dollar] could be a bit higher on the black market but it is safer to change

your money at a licensed office," another trader said.

In the past, kurb dealers and traders in the exchange business risked harsh penalties ranging from long prison terms to amputations.

Prior to UN trade sanctions, imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the dinar was an oil-backed currency worth \$3.1. When Iraq entered talks with UN on partial oil sales early in the year the dollar was worth more than 3,000 dinars.

The two sides signed their oil-for-food deal in May under which Baghdad is permitted to sell \$2 billion worth of crude in six months. The deal stimulated the government to liberalize foreign exchange and is now striving hard not to put the dinar again at the mercy of black market speculators.

Cellcom: Lower the customs on phones

JUDY SIEGEL

CELLCOM will try to persuade the government to lower customs charges on cellular telephones and on "Diburi" equipment required for using a cellular phone in a moving vehicle, according to Oren Most, the consortium's vice president for marketing.

Most said cellular phones - now owned by 11% of all Israelis - are used daily for work and personal security, thus the 30% of the price comprising taxes should be reduced.

Although Israeli cellular phone users speak "three or four times more" minutes per day than the

world average, the percentage of the population with mobile phones is in the middle, past England's 10% and Germany's 4.7%, but still behind the US's 13.2%, Sweden's 23.4% and Norway's 24.3%.

In a briefing for reporters in Jerusalem, Most and Cellcom vice president for engineering Shalom Manova said the ultimate aim is for every Israeli to own a cellular phone.

Cellcom has accrued more than 300,000 subscribers in its 18

months of operations, many more than Bezeq/Motorola's Telephone was able to get in 10 years as a monopoly. The Cellcom officials added that when Communications Minister Limor Livnat sits down to discuss the ministry's plans for a third cellular phone service supplier, she could very well reach the conclusion that there is "no justification" for yet another competing company.

The officials announced the launching of special low prices for Jerusalem-area residents who want to buy Nokia or Ericsson cellular phones on the Cellcom network.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bezeq to help Technion transmit lectures: Expanded cooperation between Bezeq and the Haifa Technion will make possible real-time transmission of lectures by the school's staff over interactive ATM lines combining pictures, sounds and data at high speed and quality. This experiment, to be carried out soon, was announced yesterday by Bezeq director-general Yitzhak Kaul on a visit to the Haifa Campus.

Kaul and Technion president Zehev Tadmor said lectures would be transmitted to Bezeq's training center in Tel Aviv and from there to any facility that has ATM reception capabilities. Bezeq will also join the Technion's center for communications and information technologies that brings together leading public organizations and private companies in the field along with Technion researchers and lab teams. *Judy Siegel*

Purchase tax on imports jumps: The purchase tax on imported goods was raised by 20 percent yesterday. This is the first change since January 1993, when the dollar was worth NIS 2.64. Legally, the tax must be changed with every 20% increase in the value of the dollar against the shekel.

The tax, which has been less important since the introduction of VAT, applies to a small group of durables and intermediates. The change means tax on a central air-conditioning system weighing upwards of four tons will now be NIS 720 a ton, up from NIS 600. The ceiling of the tax on household electric goods was raised from NIS 2,160 to NIS 2,592 for each item. *David Harris*

IEC insurance committee approves recommendation: The insurance committee of the Israel Electric Corporation has approved the recommendation to appoint London-based Marsh & McLennan as broker for its planned \$1.4 billion coal-fired power plant at Ashkelon. The insurance cover would last five years.

The plant will comprise two large coal-based production units, each with 550 megawatt output. Work on both should be completed by 2001. *David Harris*

Palestinian growers irked by Flower Board ruling: Palestinian flower growers are contemplating cutting of all ties with Agrexco and Carmel in response to a decision by the Flower Board to separate exports from Israel from those of the territories.

The decision was taken to ensure Israeli farmers do not pay a levy as a result of different quota arrangements for Palestinians.

According to an agreement between Israel and the European Community, the annual export quota is 24,500 tons. If exports exceed this, the growers must pay a 15 percent levy. This year, for example, Israel will export about 30,000 tons.

The quota for the territories was set at 1,500 tons, with an expected 3,500 being shipped this year. *David Harris*

Tourism grows by 12 percent: The number of visitors in the first quarter of 1996 stood at 855,400, a 12% increase on the same period last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported this week. Of them, 792,900 were tourists, up 13% over last year.

Some 4,100 entered by sea, a 24% decrease. The largest increase, 26%, was in the number of people arriving by land - 189,000. An undisclosed proportion of these were Israelis returning from vacations in adjoining Arab countries. *David Harris*

Tribune Co. acquires Renaissance: Media power Tribune Co. will buy Renaissance Communications Corp. and its six television stations in a cash deal valued at \$1.13 billion, the companies announced yesterday.

Tribune already owns and operates TV stations in 10 cities. Following the deal, it would own and operate stations in eight of the top 11 US markets, the Chicago-based company said in a statement.

The deal is expected to close early next year following Federal Communications Commission and shareholder approvals, Tribune said. Renaissance shareholders who own 60 percent of the company have agreed to vote for the transaction, Tribune said. *Reuters*

US court approves InterPharm share buyback

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

AFTER two years of litigation, a New York federal court has preliminarily approved a settlement that will allow Ares-Serono, a Geneva-based pharmaceutical company, to buy back its shares in its Israel-based bio-tech subsidiary, InterPharm, the company recently announced.

The decision will give shareholders who did not tender their shares an opportunity to sell them at \$26 per share and is offering an additional \$3 to those who sold their shares pursuant of the 1994 tender offer.

The tender was put on hold following a shareholder filed a civil action suit against Ares-Serono for improperly conducting its plan to privatize InterPharm.

Since the case went to court, stock in the company, which

went from being traded on Nasdaq to being traded on the Pink Sheets, have remained stagnant at about \$13 per share.

In 1994 Ares-Serono decided to revert to its private status, which, due to the proprietary nature of the information in the highly competitive pharmaceutical industry, would make operating the subsidiary easier, a company spokesperson said.

InterPharm develops the active ingredients used in medications which Ares-Serono then finishes and markets.

The settlement is contingent upon current shareholders' agreement to sell their remaining stocks and final approval by the court after a hearing to be held on August 16, 1996 at a United States district court.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK 34 Civ. 3539 (KTD)/RLE
REBECCA SKYDELL
on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, Plaintiff,
v.
ARES-SERONO S.A., Defendant

SUMMARY NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLASS ACTION AND SETTLEMENT HEARING TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 16, 1996

ATTENTION: ALL PERSONS AND ENTITIES WHO OWNED SHARES OF INTERPHARM (NASDAQ) ON MAY 8, 1994, AND WHO EITHER TENDERED AND SOLD SUCH SHARES TO ARES-SERONO S.A. PURSUANT TO THE TENDER OFFER MADE BY ARES-SERONO S.A. IN 1994, OR WHO CURRENTLY OWN SUCH SHARES (THE "SETTLEMENT CLASS")

The parties in the above action have agreed to a Settlement of this Litigation, subject to the approval of the Court. If you tendered or hold InterPharm stock, your rights may be affected and you may be entitled to a financial benefit.

1. The proposed Settlement provides those persons within the Settlement Class who currently own InterPharm shares with an Opportunity to Sell their shares at an amount of \$26.00 per share, less certain fees and expenses incurred in this litigation in an amount not to exceed \$1 per share. To participate in this Opportunity to Sell, you or your broker or representative must submit an application form, which can be obtained by contacting the address below, and such form must be submitted on or before the closing date, which is currently October 15, 1996. So long as the Settlement is not otherwise terminated or canceled, the Opportunity to Sell will be terminated or canceled unless at least 400,000 shares participate. The Opportunity to Sell will be consummated if at least 600,000 shares participate. If between 400,000 and 599,999 shares participate, then the Opportunity to Sell will proceed only at the option of Ares-Serono S.A. This Opportunity to Sell is provided only as part of and pursuant to the settlement of this matter. The Opportunity to Sell will only be open for a certain time, specified in the Settlement documents, and on the terms and conditions described in those documents.

Ares-Serono will not purchase, from any Person eligible to participate in the Opportunity to Sell, shares of InterPharm outside of the Opportunity to Sell until one year has elapsed from the later of the closing date of the Opportunity to Sell or the date on which the Settlement becomes final and unappealable at a price higher than Twenty-Four Dollars (\$24.00) per share.

2. The proposed Settlement also calls for the proportional distribution of a fund of \$2,133,000, less certain attorneys' fees and other expenses, to those Settlement Class Members who tendered and sold shares of InterPharm to Ares-Serono S.A. pursuant to the tender offer made by Ares-Serono S.A. in 1994. This distribution may not be made if the number of shares of otherwise eligible persons who choose to be excluded from this Settlement exceeds a certain threshold.

If you believe you are a member of the Settlement Class, or if you are a broker, bank or otherwise acting as a nominee or representative for a beneficial owner of InterPharm common stock who you believe may be a Class member, and have not yet received a copy of the full Notice in the mail, you should immediately request a copy of the full Notice of Proposed Settlement of Class Action and an Application to Sell, from:

WOLF HALDENSTEIN ADLER FREEMAN & HERZ LLP, Attn: MICHAEL JAFFE, ESQ., 270 MADISON AVENUE, SUITE 1100, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016, (212) 545-4930.

or, E. SHALEV LTD., AFFILIATE OF OPPENHEIMER & CO. INC., Attn: EDDIE SHALEV, TOP TOWER, 50 DIZENGOFF STREET, P.O. BOX 23722, TEL AVIV, ISRAEL 61231, (03) 525-2621.

The Notice describes the Settlement in detail, including the distribution of the Settlement Amount described above, and the Opportunity to Sell.

Dated: New York, New York
June 21, 1996

CLERK OF THE COURT
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS				
Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (20.6%)				
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	Rep.
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.82	4.75	5.73	2.507
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.00	4.00	4.50	2.104
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.75	1.75	2.375	4.378
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.00	1.00	1.250	2.519
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—	—
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (1.7.96)				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.552	3.512	3.12	3.507
German mark	2.928	2.928	2.58	2.928
French franc	2.084	2.121	2.05	2.116
Pound sterling	4.394	4.311	4.25	4.300
Japanese yen (100)	0.171	0.173	0.16	0.164
Dutch guilder	2.511	2.547	2.25	2.274
Swedish krona	0.472	0.482	0.47	0.481
Norwegian krona	0.461	0.470	0.45	0.462
Canadian dollar	0.518	0.528	0.52	0.529
Australian dollar	0.882	0.894	0.87	0.884
Israeli shekel (10)	2.511	2.546	2.25	2.274
South African rand	0.738	0.748	0.72	0.730
British pound (10)	1.714	1.731	1.68	1.702
Australian dollar (10)	2.511	2.546	2.25	2.274
Italian lira (1000)	2.076	2.101	2.03	2.114
Japanese yen (100)	—	—	—	—
Spanish peseta (100)	—	—	—	—
ECU	3.921	4.020	4.00	4.002
Irish punt	0.078	0.080	0.07	0.078
Portuguese escudo (100)	2.405	2.505	2.43	2.506

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUM

Key Representative Rates
US dollar NIS 3.2030
Sterling NIS 4.5789 +0.43%
Mark NIS 2.1034 -1.02%

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET
DJI Industrial 7272.84 +1.48
DJI Transport 7272.84 +1.48
DJI Comp 7272.84 +1.48

Other stock market indexes
FTSE 100 2728.45 +1.48
Nikkei 21453.76 +1.48
Hang Seng 10232.12 +1.48

Israeli stocks in NY
NYSE / AMEX
Amir 41.75 -0.15
Bank Leumi 42.50 -0.25

LIBOR RATES
3 months 5.4800
6 months 5.7500
12 months 6.0000

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

US COMMODITIES AND METALS
Cocoa (B) 1000 +0.15
Coffee (B) 1000 +0.15

London commodities
Cocoa (B) 1000 +0.15
Coffee (B) 1000 +0.15

Spot market metals (US)
Gold spot 381.25 +0.10
Silver spot 6.07 +0.01

New York metal futures
Gold (B) 381.25 +0.10
Silver (B) 6.07 +0.01

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'Foggy weather' drives stock prices down

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



STOCKS fell yesterday, after the government's first budget-related debate on Sunday ended without any decisions. 'Foreign investors and local investors are waiting for the atmosphere to clear,' said Dan Kiri...

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Euro markets start off big week with a whimper

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - European markets drifted into the second half of 1996 in a wary mood ahead of three major events later this week - any one of which could unsettle them.

Dow up sharply

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stock prices soared on the first day of the third quarter yesterday as investors were confident that the Federal Reserve's policy-setting group will keep interest rates unchanged at its two-day meeting that starts today.

Approved farm yback

MARKET

MARKET



FIRST STEPS - The Olympic team readies for the 1996 Games which begin in Atlanta on July 19. The delegation, which includes athletes, coaches, trainers and officials, will meet today at Beit Hamassi. The contingent, photographed at the Sharon Hotel in Herzliya, is led by Israel National Olympic Committee President Yoram Oberkowitz (middle row, 8th from left) and 1992 medalists Yael Arad and Oren Smadja (front row, 4th and 6th from left). Capsule biographies of the 25 athletes and a daily Olympic schedule will appear in the 'World of Sport' magazine on July 16. (Itan Osendyev/Israel Sun)

Torre's torrid Yanks stay atop AL East Graf, Sanchez Vicario reach quarters

CAN a Brooklyn boy and former Mets manager find happiness in the Bronx, despite a Boss who is known for breathing down his skipper's neck?

So far, Joe Torre's done just that, keeping the Yankees loose despite a plague of injuries of almost Biblical proportions to lead them to a .595 winning percentage and a 4 1/2 game lead over the favored Baltimore Orioles in the American League East.

Amazingly, the Yanks have been in first since April 30. How's he doing it? "It's no secret," Torre said recently in a pre-game interview at Minnesota's Metrodome. "We're a good team - we play hard. I think the fact that we don't hit a lot of home runs makes us work hard because we know that we have a lot of components that have to work for us to win. It's just a good group of guys who want to win badly."

Torre's emphasis on the fundamentals was evident in last week's floundering Twins, who by the Yankees, 2-1. Little things done right, like rookie Andy Fox advancing catcher Joe Girardi

from second to third in the eighth inning to set up Derek Jeter's sac fly to tie the score at 1 was just one example. Torre has also brought a long absent running game to the Bronx Bombers, who were used to relying on the long ball. They've already stolen more bases in less than half a season than they did all last year.

So far, the easy-going Torre has also managed to keep his players loose, despite playing under the New York media spotlight, and just a phone call away from The Boss.

Going into the weekend series with the Orioles, the Yanks had won 41 of their last 57 home games (.730) dating back to last August 21, and had not lost consecutive games at the Stadium during that period, their longest such streak since 1963. "We're enjoying ourselves - we play well at home, we've been playing well against good teams, so our confidence is very high," says Torre.

One of the reasons for the high spirits is rightfielder Paul O'Neill, who started the season flirting with .400 but has compensated for a slight cooling-off period with

his rocket arm.

Trailing 2-1 in the bottom of the ninth, the Twins got runners on the corners with one out. Pat Meares, a pinch-runner who had been thrown out at the plate by O'Neill on a no-hop throw the day before, watched as Chuck Knoblauch hit a medium fly ball to O'Neill which certainly had a chance of scoring him. Instead, Meares took nary a step off the bag as O'Neill fielded it cleanly and uncorked another fine throw home. Evidently, Meares wasn't too interested to see if lightning could strike twice in the same place.

O'Neill hasn't been the only one to shine on defense. Catcher Joe Girardi's quick hands prevented three wild pitches in the game against the Twins, and crucial plays by rookie shortstop Jeter, who has played in 75 of the club's 79 games, is sure to put him near the top of the first-year crop.

The pitching has received a shot in the arm from a very unex-

pected source: Dwight (Doc) Gooden (7-4), whose return to form from a series of drug and alcohol problems has been an inspiration.

"Doc picked us up when we needed a big lift," says Torre. "We lost David Cone and Doc Gooden went back into the starting rotation and he's been pitching lights out. He's been absolutely fantastic - not only did he pitch the no-hitter, he stopped a couple of losing streaks for us and it's very important that we have his experience and his ability pitching for us."

Cone made 12 light tosses last week, but Torre said it would take him six weeks to get ready once he is healthy, and clearly isn't counting on Cone in the regular season, if at all, making Gooden that much more important.

Ironically, the person who probably deserves as much credit as anyone for the Yanks' success is the man Yankee fans love to hate: George Steinbrenner. Finally grasping the "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" approach to ownership, The Boss has left GM Bob Watson and Torre to run things, leaving the New York

press with little on the George front other than the current dispute over his desire to get the club a new stadium.

"George has his input, obviously, but Bob Watson and the other baseball people hopefully make most of the decisions," says Willie Randolph, who's seen it all as a player and coach with the Yanks. "If George thinks we need a pitcher or two or somebody, he's going to try to get us someone we need. But as for letting the young kids play, you need to do that. Otherwise, when are they going to learn how to play?"

When you look at the people we have on the field this year - they're home-grown, and I think we can be proud of that fact."

In the final analysis, it's still been Torre - who never achieved much success as a manager in the National League - who's been so important to the club's success. While some raised eyebrows when he was named Yankee manager, he's proven them wrong. "He knows what it takes to win," says Randolph. "And to Joe's credit, he's helping us do it."

WIMBLEDON (AP) - Defending champion Steffi Graf beat 15-year-old Martina Hingis in straight sets yesterday to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals on a rainy, blustery day.

In a Centre Court match twice suspended by rain, the top-seeded Graf used her big serve and forehand to beat No. 16 Hingis 6-1, 6-4. The match lasted 55 minutes of actual playing time but took 1:45 because of the rain breaks.

The victory avenged the only tournament defeat Graf has suffered this year, a three-set loss to Hingis at the Italian Open in May.

"I think I was probably on top right from the beginning," Graf said. "Because I lost my last match against her, I didn't want to give her the chance to get into the match."

Aranxa Sanchez Vicario, the fourth seed and last year's runner-up, rallied from a set and 0-2 down to beat Belgium's Sabine Appelmans, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Mary Pierce, the 13th seed, advanced to her first Wimbledon quarter-final with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Russia's Elena Likhovtseva.

Meredith McGrath reached her first Grand Slam quarter-final with a 6-4, 6-0 win over Katarina Soudenikova, the talented Slovak who ousted Monica Seles in the second round.

Tim Henman became the first British man in 23 years to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals when he beat Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson 7-6(7-2), 6-4, 7-6(7-4) on Centre Court.

Henman, playing classic serve-and-volley tennis, came from 0-3 down in the second set and 3-5 in

the third. He led 4-0 and 6-2 in the third-set tiebreaker and squandered two match points before ending it with a good serve that forced an error by Gustafsson.

The last Briton to reach the final eight was Roger Taylor in 1973. He went on to lose in the semifinals. The last British man to win Wimbledon was Fred Perry in 1936.

Graf, who has been suffering from a swollen tendon in her left knee, wore a small bandage below the knee. Although she appeared to limp slightly at times, especially in the first set, her game did not appear to suffer.

Graf responded testily to comments by nine-time champion Martina Navratilova, who said Graf was exaggerating her injury as an excuse in case of a defeat.

"She's lucky she doesn't have to live with injuries," Graf said. "I think she should know better."

Graf raced out to a 4-0 lead, before double faulting twice and losing serve in the fifth game. The match was suspended by rain for about 20 minutes at 5-1. When play resumed, Graf saved a break point before closing out the set with an ace.

After another 20-minute break at 1-0 in the second set, Hingis began putting more pressure on Graf with her solid baseline game. Graf saved two break points in the sixth game, then broke in the next game with a forehand winner to go up 4-3.

At 5-3, Hingis saved two match points and held serve as Graf made four straight errors. But Graf served out the match at love in the next game, finishing with back-to-back aces.

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RATES

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Swans end Carlton home win streak

MELBOURNE (AP) - The Sydney Swans became the first side to defeat Carlton on its home turf in two years in weekend Australian Football League action.

The Swans trailed by 11 points Saturday after three quarters but rallied to kick six goals to two in the final term to win 15.12 (102) to 13.13 (91).

In Sunday matches, the West Coast Eagles beat Footscray 11.5 (71) to 9.5 (59) and Melbourne downed Adelaide 19.9 (123) to 10.12 (72), handing the Crows their fifth consecutive loss.

North Melbourne, after trailing by nine points at halftime, moved into first place with a 9.20 (74) to 8.10 (58) win Saturday over Fremantle.

Fitzroy's increasing off-field crisis was mirrored on the field when it lost by a record margin to Geelong. The Cats posted a record 127-point win over a downcast Fitzroy, 13 points more than their previous biggest winning margin set in 1932.

Geelong boot 25.16 (166) to 6.3 (39) in front of 10,504 spectators who may have witnessed Fitzroy's last outing. The Lions are in the hands of an administrator with debts totaling \$4 million and they only took the field after the league guaranteed the match payments.

St. Kilda kept its faint finals hopes alive with a 14.12 (96) to 7.8 (56) win over Brisbane. The Saints led by five goals at the last change and kept the Bears goalless in the last term while adding two majors.

In the other match Saturday, Essendon kept out a determined Hawthorn to win 18.13 (121) to 15.10 (100). The scores were level after three quarters before the Bombers kicked clear with four goals.

On Friday, Richmond kicked the first four goals of the game and won its third in a row, beating Collingwood by 23 points - 14.8 (92) to 10.9 (69).

Four-day county championship results

At Old Trafford: Lancashire vs. Somerset match abandoned due to rain. Lancashire 380-5 declared and 45-0 declared. Somerset 75-3 declared. Lancashire 8 points Somerset 5.

At Southend: Essex vs. Surrey match abandoned due to rain. Surrey 476-8 declared and 167-2 (M. Butcher 85 not out). Essex 425-9 declared. Essex 8 points Surrey 10.

At Chester-le-Street: Durham vs. Gloucestershire match drawn. Durham 175 and 385-8 declared. Gloucestershire 166 and 150-2 (T. Hancock 59 not out, A. Wright 58). Durham and Gloucestershire 7 points.

At Lord's: Middlesex v Warwickshire match drawn. Middlesex 413 and 122-3. Warwickshire 455-9 declared (P. Tufnell 5-71). Middlesex 8 points Warwickshire 10.

At Worcester: Yorkshire beat Worcestershire by 111 runs. Yorkshire 321 and 266-7 declared (C. White 65, M. Vaughan 63/80, M. Bevan 57). Worcestershire 355-9 declared and 121 (D. Gough 4-27). Yorkshire 23 points Worcestershire 8.

Joseph Hoffman, Sports Editor

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THE JERUSALEM POST

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Knesset spends day fighting road accidents

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset devoted a day of meetings to fighting the war on the roads yesterday, during which the new Speaker, Dan Tichon, said he wanted to see results, not hear more talk. "We won't be satisfied with just plenum debates," Tichon said. "I intend to establish a Knesset committee to meet weekly, prepare work plans, and coordinate the work of relevant bodies in order to keep the matter on the agenda."

Tichon initiated a meeting with several ministers on the subject, but his approach angered some members of the new government. He demanded that a program to combat road accidents be presented to the Knesset before its recess at the end of the month.

"I want to hear what is being done not what will be done," he said. Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman backed Tichon, saying: "What you can't do in two weeks, you'll never be able to do."

Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said they needed more time. Kahalani said the major problem is one of education and that takes time to see the results.

Tichon said he was disappointed with Levy and Kahalani's attitude. "We've heard this all before," Tichon said.

Ne'eman proposed stricter law enforcement and expedited trials

for traffic offenders. He also called for a team to be created to present the government within a week with a list of recommendations for action and a timetable for their enactment.

Kahalani called for a greater police presence on the roads, and Levy proposed an aggressive public information campaign on road safety.

Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi urged the Knesset to continue to promote the bill for road safety which he co-sponsored in the last Knesset and which has the support of 91 MKs. The bill calls for an umbrella authority to deal with all the bodies handling aspects of the war on road accidents and to prepare an emergency program.

He said government expenditure on road safety would be well-spent. "The national economy loses NIS3.6 billion a year as a direct result of accidents," he said.

At one point, Kahalani left the meeting, saying he was insulted by Tichon's manner which he described as "brutal."

In a later plenum debate, scores of MKs spoke on the subject. The suggestions raised ranged from having an electronic board in the plenum with the numbers of fatalities (MK Eli Goldschmidt, Labor) to appointing Ariel Sharon as the Minister for the War on Road Accidents (MK Yossi Katz, Labor).



Former OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Herzl Bodinger (left) congratulates his successor Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu after yesterday's change of command ceremony. (Guy Eyal/IDF Spokesman)

Ben-Eliahu takes command of air force

MAJ.-GEN. Eitan Ben-Eliahu took over command of the air force yesterday from Maj.-Gen. Herzl Bodinger, who is retiring after 35 years in the air force, the last four and a half of them as its commander.

In a ceremony at Ramat David air base, Bodinger passed the air force flag to Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, who in turn handed it to Ben-Eliahu, as four F-15s flew over in formation.

In his farewell address, Bodinger said that the air force "is the IDF's principle source of firepower." He also recalled his comrades-in-arms who sacrificed their lives for their country, and said that he and every airman prays for the return of the bodies of the missing in action and for the safe return of the missing in action of Iranian captivity.

He then turned to Ben-Eliahu and said: "Take it," the phrase one pilot uses when he

turns over control of the plane to another.

"I, Eitan Ben-Eliahu, grew up in Jerusalem in the house of my father Ezra," the new OC Air Force said, upon assuming command. "I graduated pilots' course No. 44, and took part in the War of Attrition and every succeeding operation. I accept with honor the trust you are placing in me, my officers and soldiers, and I will do everything in my power to meet the challenge." (Tum)

WEATHER

Holon	22-28
Tiberias	22-28
Afula	21-33
Sardinia	19-27
Tel Aviv	22-28
Jerusalem	19-30
Beer Sheva	21-33
Dead Sea	26-33
Eilat	25-40

Forecast: Clear to partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	9	15	cloudy
Berlin	10	17	cloudy
Buenos Aires	12	18	clear
Frankfurt	13	19	cloudy
Geneva	14	20	clear
Hong Kong	28	34	cloudy
Jakarta	24	30	clear
London	17	23	clear
Los Angeles	13	19	clear
Moscow	12	18	clear
Paris	13	19	clear
Prague	14	20	cloudy
Rome	14	20	cloudy
Sydney	19	25	cloudy

Winning cards
In yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the nine of spades, queen of hearts, nine of diamonds and king of clubs.

Jews, Arabs protest planned Galilee factories to be built over natural springs

SCORES of Jewish and Arab residents of the Western Galilee demonstrated yesterday in Jerusalem against plans to build an industrial zone on 1,000 dunams of land south of Kibbutz Kabri.

The protesters, who staged a colorful and peaceful demonstration opposite the Interior Ministry, charged that the proposed site is directly on top of natural springs and an underground reservoir which are the main source of drinking water for the region.

They erected a stage and put on a play symbolizing the effects of industrial pollution on the environment, particularly the water resources.

Alon Porat, a resident of Klil village and a leading member of the Citizens For the Environment (CFE) in the Galilee which organized the demonstration, said more than 350 people had made the trek to the capital to take part in the protest.

The environmentalists maintain the proposed project was approved at the last minute by former interior minister Haim Ramon, despite having been rejected by previous ministers because of the threat to the water

sources at the site.

CFE leaders met with Interior Minister Eli Suissa after the demonstration to press for the cancellation of the project and for the site to be reclassified as an area for tourism and not industry.

"We are not opposed to the concept of an industrial zone in the region generally but not on a site, wherever it might be, where water sources would be threatened," said Porat.

Yehuda Shavit, head of the Mateh Asher regional council which has put forward the proposal for the new industrial zone,

stressed that the alternative sites had also been rejected for different reasons.

"A survey by the Ministry of Trade and Industry found that this particular site is the most suitable and everything would done to comply with regulations," said Savit.

Liat Collins adds: Former environment minister Yossi Sarid (Meretz) said the siting of the industrial zone is a mistake which cannot be allowed. He said he spent four years in office thwarting plans to establish the industrial area close to water sources.

MK Michael Nudelman (Yisrael Ba'aliya) said yesterday that

"establishing an industrial zone in the Western Galilee will cause irreversible harm to water sources, because there are 27 springs within a four kilometer radius of the planned site. The decision to establish the industrial zone at that particular spot is scandalous and must be rescinded."

Nudelman, an environmental economist, hopes to head the environmental caucus within the Knesset and is seeking to create a separate Knesset committee for the environment. He called on Suissa to cancel the go-ahead his predecessor Ramon gave for the industrial zone two days before the elections.

Upper Nazareth mayor hits back at opponents of industrial zone

UPPER Nazareth Mayor Menachem Ariav hit back yesterday at opponents of plans to expand the Tziporit industrial zone in the Lower Galilee.

Residents of Hoshaya and some neighboring Arab villages staged a noisy demonstration yesterday evening outside the entrance to the zone, between the Beir Rimon

and Hamovil junctions.

The residents maintain there is no need to expand the industrial area, and that any more factories there would increase pollution in the region. They have also expressed concern that additional

pollution from the site, which currently houses the giant Phoenicia glassworks plant and a smaller factory, could endanger the quality of water in the nearby reservoirs of the National Water Carrier.

Ariav, however, rejected the arguments, charging that the claims of the Hoshaya residents were "untrue and based on egoistic and personal interests" which did not take into account vital national and regional needs.

"The region in which the 120 Hoshaya families live was earmarked from the outset for resi-

dential and industrial use and they were aware of this before moving there," said Ariav.

"Despite the fact that we were not obliged to do so, we tried to reach an agreement with the residents of Hoshaya which would be satisfactory to all the sides."

"Some of the residents agreed to the accords that were reached, but extremists among them rejected the agreements and said they were not prepared to accept any compromise, or any industry of any kind in their area."

Ariav noted that the population of Upper Nazareth had doubled in the past five years from 23,000 to 46,000.

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